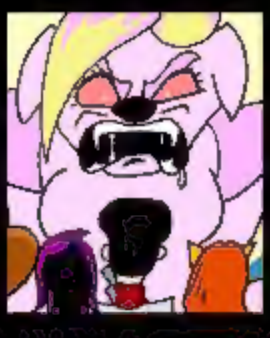
PREVIOUSLY IN UTC

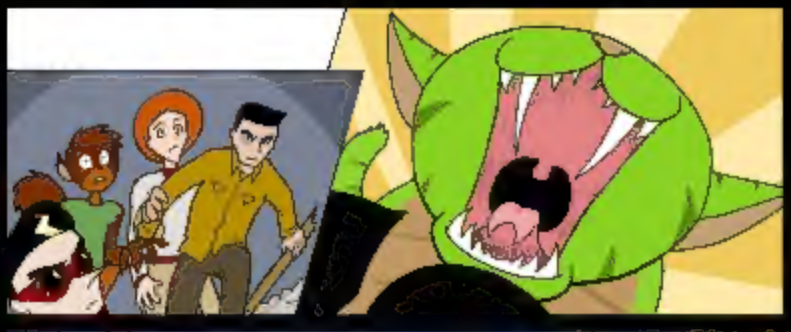
Attic High, an elite private school for young scientists, held a fundraising event for its students participating in a genetics competition. The project showing the most success and value to society at the end of the school year would receive a generous reward.

Morty, blinded by ambition and jealousy, viewed fellow students **Cass** and **Demetrius** as his main competition. He plotted to alter the pair's genetic structure, presumably distracting them from working on their projects and allowing him to claim first place.



His plan had numerous unforeseen consequences.

In the wake of Morty's actions, **Principal Jennifer Attic** drafted Cass, Morty and Demetrius, as well as **Noah**, **Ashton** and **Katsuko**, into a new class that would examine and regulate all of the senior science projects in the interests of safety and humanity.



This plan also had numerous unforeseen consequences.

Growing resentment at being policed by their own classmates led **Ken**, **Kestrel** and other students to mount a rebellion.

In the midst of an isolating snowstorm, they took control of Attic High by stealing back their confiscated scientific equipment, putting every adult in the school to sleep, and regressing Jen into a young girl with hours left to live.

This plan...

...Well.

You get the idea.

CATOMIX
11

UTC

URGENT TRANSFORMATION CRISIS

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"LET THE TRUE EXPERIMENTS OF ATTIC HIGH BEGIN!"
GO WILD.
I'M SORRY, MR. ATTIC, BUT THERE'S NO BETTER PLACE TO KEEP YOU SAFE RIGHT NOW.
BESIDES, THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE YOU'D WANT ME TO WORRY ABOUT MORE.
CUSTODIAL
HE'TH IN THE PRINTHIPAL'S OFFITH! WE GOTTA GET 'IM!
NO. HE'LL BE READY FOR US.
IF HE'S GOT THE POWER TO DO THAT, WE NEED TO GET SOME SERIOUS BACKUP.
BUT HE KILLED MY DAD!
YOUR DAD'S FINE, BUD. THEY'VE ALL BEEN PUT TO SLEEP.

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OKAY, JUST GOT TO--
UMM...
HEY, SHE'S IN THE CLASS THAT REPORTS OUR PROJECTS TO THE PRINCIPAL!
I KNOW! SHE GOT MINE BANNED FROM EXPERIMENTATION. MAYBE WE SHOULD GIVE HER A PERSONAL DEMONSTRATION.
ORRRR MAYBEEE I CAN SEE IF MY GRRRILLA STRENGTH CAN CRUSH HERRR LITTLE SKULL IN.
PSHH. YOU THINK I ENJOYED RATTING OUT EVERYONE TO THAT CONTROL FREAK?
SHE HASN'T EVEN LET ME TEST MY OWN PROJECT.
WANNA SEE IT?
HHHEYYY... WAIT A--
PROTECT MOMMY.

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WHEW.
GET THEM OFF--!
OH GOD!
TOO CUDDLY!
HOW DID SHE EVEN MAKE THESE
GET BACK TO YOUR ROOMS RIGHT NOW!
WHERE'S KEN? THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE IS EMPTY
HEY!
HEY!
UP YOURS, TWILIGHT SPARKLE.
HAAAAAY!
THE PRINCIPAL IS MISSING. KEN'S DONE SOMETHING TO HER, AND NOT ONE OF YOU IS DOING ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
SHE BUILT THIS SCHOOL. WE'RE DOING SCIENCE BECAUSE OF HER.
ARE WE, LIKE, GONNA DO WHAT THAT ASSHOLE WANTS...
...OR ARE WE GONNA SAVE MY MOM?
DOCTOR ATTIC? WHAT IS IT?
...I DON'T KNOW...
I JUST FEEL... REALLY PROUD?
THAT'S PROBABLY THE CANCER EATING AWAY AT HER BRAIN. SHE'S DOOMED.

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OH CRAP--
NOOO!
MMFF!
MMMMFF!
AND YOU SAY I'M THE TWISTED ONE.
OH, THIS DOESN'T ENDANGER YOUR HOLD ON THAT TITLE.
SHRRRIP SHRRRIP
SHRRRIP SHRRRIP
HOW DID MY BABIES DO?
THEY DID GREAT, THANKS.
ALSO: I'M VERY WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S A BUNCH OF PEOPLE DOWN HERE. HOPE THEY'RE OKA--
WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN? WALKER SAYS MOM WENT TO THE ADVANCED LABS!

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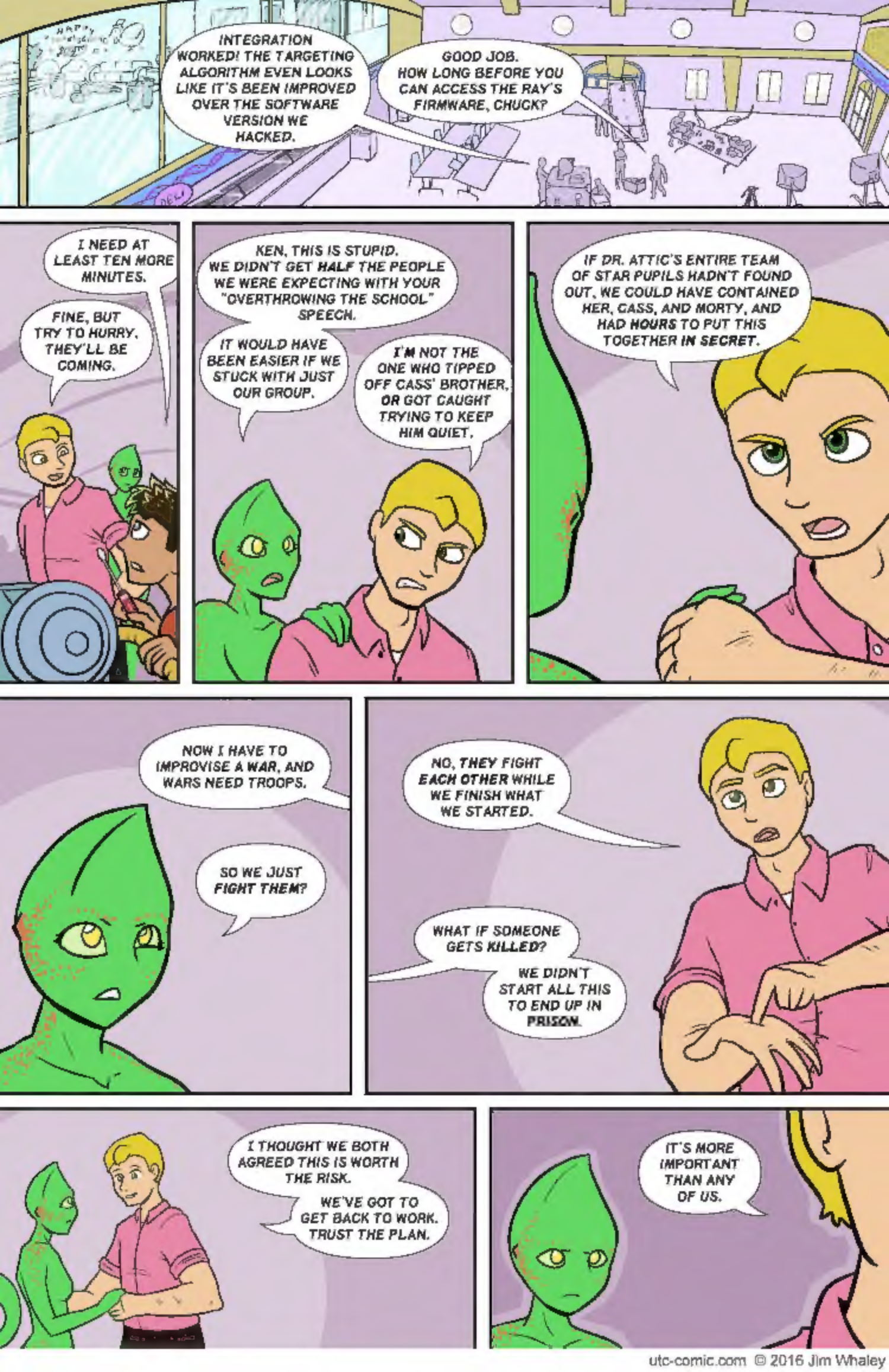
INTEGRATION WORKED! THE TARGETING ALGORITHM EVEN LOOKS LIKE IT'S BEEN IMPROVED OVER THE SOFTWARE VERSION WE HACKED.
GOOD JOB. HOW LONG BEFORE YOU CAN ACCESS THE RAY'S FIRMWARE, CHUCK?
I NEED AT LEAST TEN MORE MINUTES.
FINE, BUT TRY TO HURRY. THEY'LL BE COMING.
KEN, THIS IS STUPID. WE DIDN'T GET HALF THE PEOPLE WE WERE EXPECTING WITH YOUR "OVERTHROWING THE SCHOOL" SPEECH.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASIER IF WE STUCK WITH JUST OUR GROUP.
I'M NOT THE ONE WHO TIPPED OFF CASS' BROTHER, OR GOT CAUGHT TRYING TO KEEP HIM QUIET.
IF DR. ATTIC'S ENTIRE TEAM OF STAR PUPILS HADN'T FOUND OUT, WE COULD HAVE CONTAINED HER, CASS, AND MORTY, AND HAD HOURS TO PUT THIS TOGETHER IN SECRET.
NOW I HAVE TO IMPROVISE A WAR, AND WARS NEED TROOPS.
SO WE JUST FIGHT THEM?
NO, THEY FIGHT EACH OTHER WHILE WE FINISH WHAT WE STARTED.
WHAT IF SOMEONE GETS KILLED?
WE DIDN'T START ALL THIS TO END UP IN PRISON.
I THOUGHT WE BOTH AGREED THIS IS WORTH THE RISK.
WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO WORK. TRUST THE PLAN.
IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY OF US.

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THEY'RE NOT SUFFOCATING IN THERE, ARE THEY?
NO! I MADE THESE TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM PHYSICAL THREATS.
THERE'S A FULL LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM IN THERE.
THEY'RE IN HERE!
ALRIGHT, WHERE'S MY--
M--MOM?!
KERIS!
...?
KEN MADE HER YOUNGER AND SHE'S GOING TO DIE IF WE CAN'T GET THE CURE FROM HIM.
WHAT?!
I'M OKAY, HONEY. I JUST... DON'T FEEL QUITE LIKE MYSELF.

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THIS IS MY FAULT. THIS SCHOOL... THE GENETICS COMPETITION...
YOU'RE ALL SO SMART, AND I THOUGHT IF YOU HAD ENOUGH RESOURCES...
...AND IF I LET YOUR IMAGINATIONS--
--GO WILD...
I DID THIS TO YOU, CASS. TO ALL OF YOU.
IT'S MY FAULT!
NO. WE'LL FIX THIS.
WE'LL FIX YOU.
BUT WE, LIKE, NEED A PLAN. A REALLY GOOD ONE.
SHE'S ALREADY MADE ONE.
WHAT IS IT?
US.

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ALRIGHT, WE NEED EVERYBODY WITH A HELPFUL TRANSFORMATION OR INVENTION TO STEP UP!
HEY, WALKER SAYS KEN AND THE OTHERS ARE IN THE CAFETERIA WITH ALL THE EQUIPMENT AND THEY'VE BARRICADED THE DOORS!
THEN THAT'S WHERE WE STOP 'EM.
HOW MANY MORE BEARS DO YOU HAVE?
JUST ONE. HE'S NOT WORKING TOO WELL, BUT HE COULD HELP WITH SURVEILLANCE.
WE'LL SCROUNGE UP EVERYTHING DEE'S GOT AND MEET YOU THERE!
KERIS, WE COULD USE YOU, TOO.
DON'T PICK NOW TO START BEING NICE TO ME.
YOU KNOW I'M NOT GOOD FOR ANYTHING.
I'LL KEEP MOM SAFE IN THE STAFF LOUNGE, WHERE I LEFT MARLENE.
SHE'LL BE... COMFORTABLE... THERE.
AT LEAST IT LOOKS LIKE SHE STOPPED GETTING YOUNGER.
GREAT. YEAH.
GET THE CURE.
THERE IS A CURE, RIGHT?
IF THERE ISN'T I AM SKEWERING KEN ON MY HORNS.

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VMM
RRRRIP
SHRP
SHRP
MRGL
GRUFF! THAT HURT LIKE HELL. DID IT WORK?
I...THINK? IS YOUR MOUTH SUPPOSED TO BE GLOWING TURQUOISE?
YEAH! WE CODED IN FOSHH-- PHOSSSFURR... OKAY, TALKING WIFF A MUZZLE IS WEIRD.
BUT WHY THE GLOW?
'CAUSE IT'S COOL?
TEST SUCCESSFUL!
LOOKS LIKE WE CAN GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.
CHUCK JUST TURNED INTO A GLOWING WEREWOLF OR SOMETHING.
WE CAN'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME. ASH? WHAT'S YOUR STATUS?
DOWN TO BUSINESS.

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I CAN'T BELIEVE WE GOT THESE THINGS CONNECTED SO EASILY
MOST OF THE STUDENTS USE THE SAME BASIC SOFTWARE THE SCHOOL PROVI
CRASH
ATTENTION MUTATED MISCREANTS!
I AM MORALLY OBLIGATED TO REQUEST YOUR SURRENDER!
I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO SHOOT YOU, THOUGH.
HERE WE GO! KEEP THEM OFF ME!
TIME YOU GOT WHAT YOU DESERVE, NARCS!
THUNK!
THANK YOU FOR REFUSING!
THUNK!
...AND BEING TERRIBLE SHOTS!
CKR
CRACK

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POP!

POP!

GET BACK! THEY'RE BRINGING IT DOWN!

DEE!

ACK!

SMITTER

SMITTER

SMITTER

HUUK--GA-AH!

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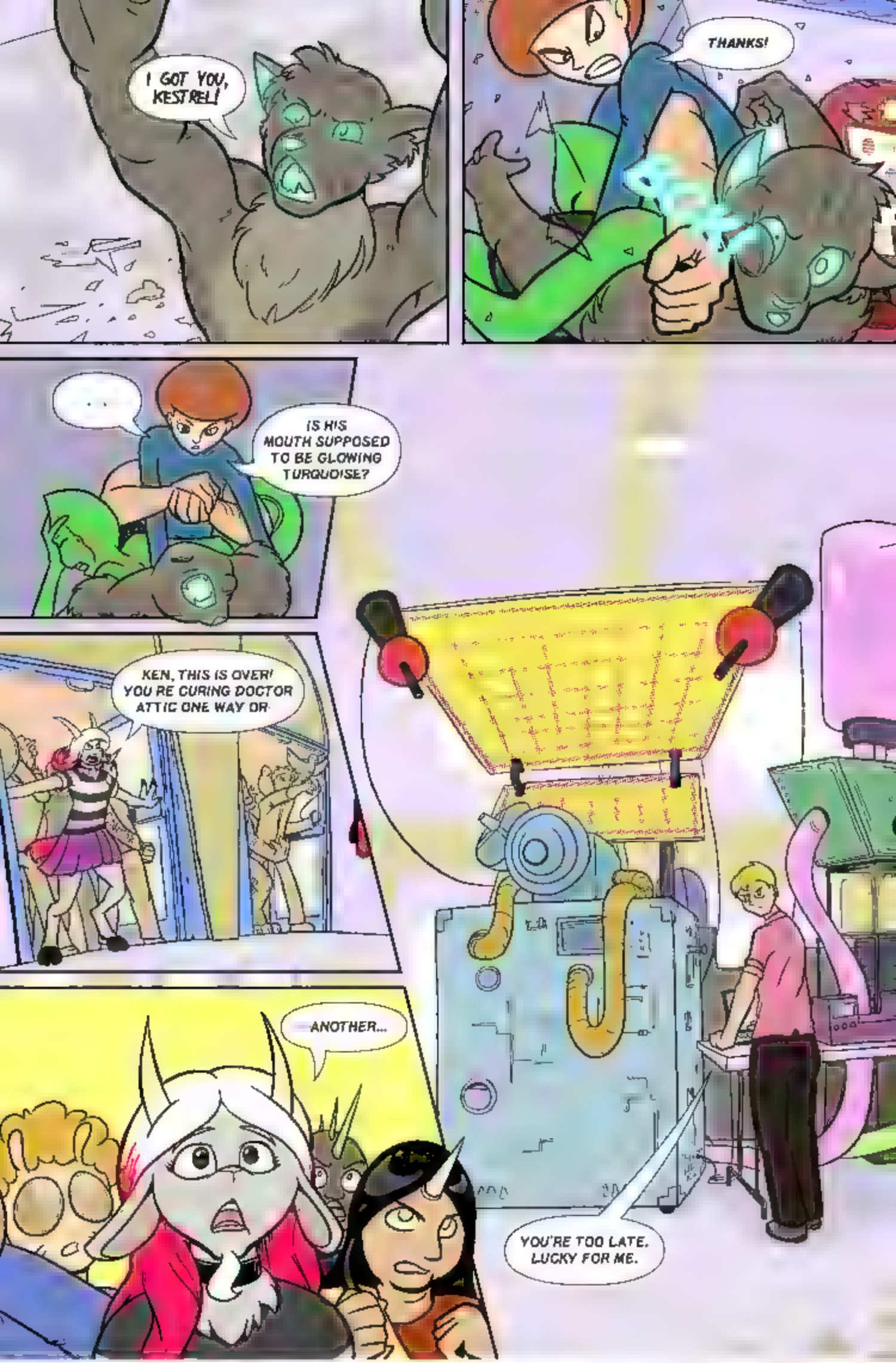
I GOT YOU, KESTREL!
THANKS!
. . .
IS HIS MOUTH SUPPOSED TO BE GLOWING TURQUOISE?
KEN, THIS IS OVER! YOU RE CURING DOCTOR ATTIC ONE WAY OR
ANOTHER...
YOU'RE TOO LATE. LUCKY FOR ME.

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I'M DONE BEGGING SOCIOPATHS TO CUT OUT THEIR CRAP.
SO THIS SCHOOL FINALLY TAUGHT YOU SOMETHING USEFUL.
PIZZA
GRILL
WE'VE ALREADY TAKEN OUT ALMOST HALF YOUR "ARMY." WE'LL TAKE THE REST IF WE HAVE TO.
I KNOW YOU WILL.
BUT BY THEN I'LL HAVE ALREADY WON.

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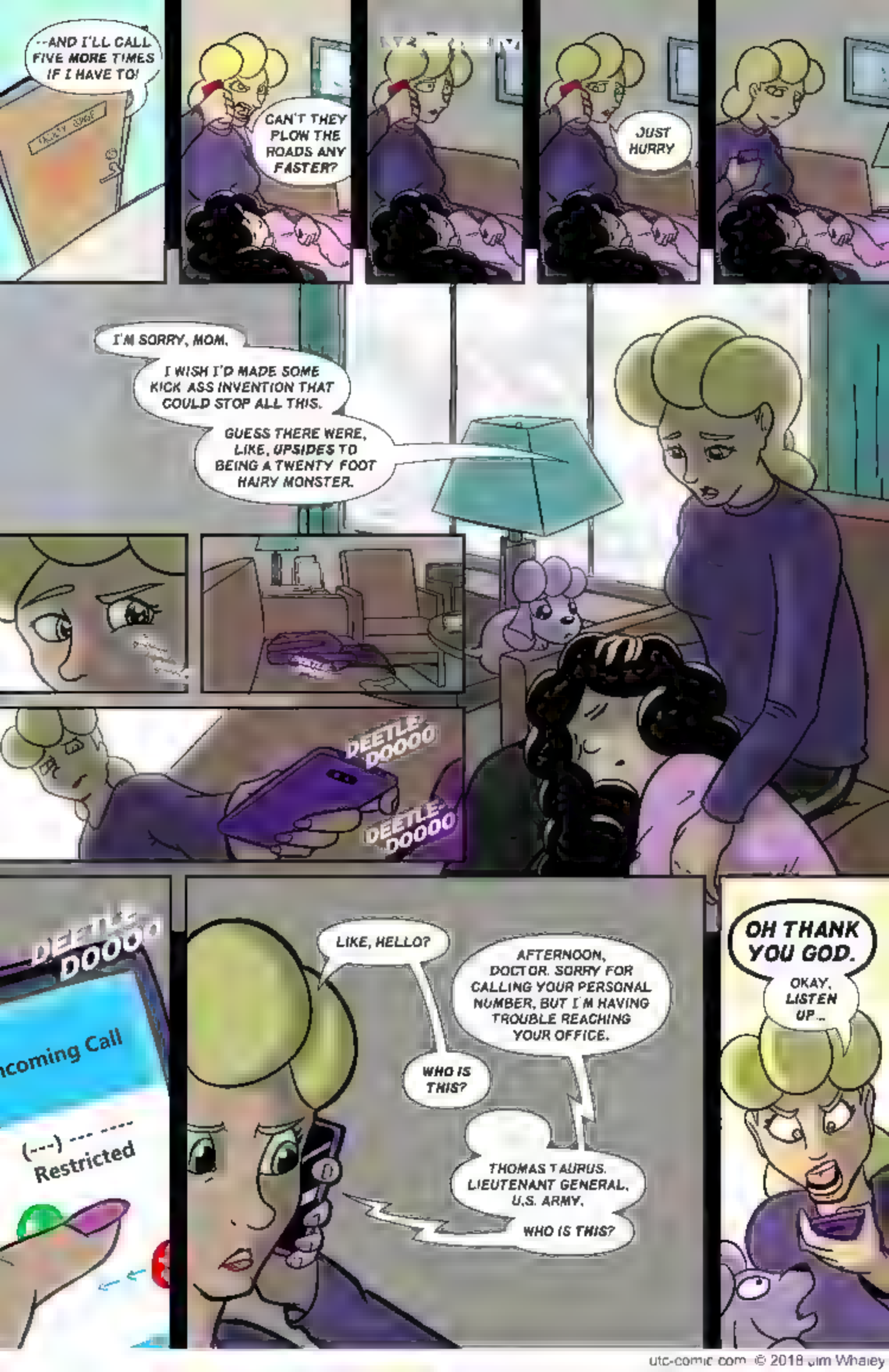
--AND I'LL CALL FIVE MORE TIMES IF I HAVE TO!
CAN'T THEY PLOW THE ROADS ANY FASTER?
JUST HURRY
I'M SORRY, MOM.
I WISH I'D MADE SOME KICK ASS INVENTION THAT COULD STOP ALL THIS.
GUESS THERE WERE, LIKE, UPSIDES TO BEING A TWENTY FOOT HAIRY MONSTER.
DEETLE-DOOOO
DEETLE-DOOOO
DEETLE-DOOOO
ncoming Call
(---) --- ----
Restricted
LIKE, HELLO?
AFTERNOON, DOCTOR. SORRY FOR CALLING YOUR PERSONAL NUMBER, BUT I'M HAVING TROUBLE REACHING YOUR OFFICE.
WHO IS THIS?
THOMAS TAURUS. LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U.S. ARMY.
WHO IS THIS?
OH THANK YOU GOD.
OKAY, LISTEN UP...

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NUHHGKAA
AGHKRNUHAA
ARE THOSE.. TUMORS?
NOW'S OUR CHANCE!
NO, MISTER SONAR!
IF THE POWER IS COMPLETELY INTERRUPTED, IT WILL GO INTO MELTDOWN!
THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN!
HOW COULD HE HAVE --?
LATER! RIGHT NOW WE'VE GOT TO TURN IT OFF!
IF ANY OF US GO IN THERE, WE'LL END UP JUST LIKE KEN, OR WORSE!
THEN WHAT DO WE DO?!
OUR MACHINE HAS A FAULTY CURRENT REGULATOR HUGH AND I HAVEN'T FIXED YET!
IF KEN DIDN'T MAKE TOO MANY MODS, THEN IT'S BEARING MOST OF THE ENERGY LOAD!
ONE GOOD WHACK SHOULD TRIP AN AUTOMATED SHUTDOWN!
"SHOULD"?
--HRRAAUGK
I'LL TAKE "SHOULD." TELL ME WHERE IT IS!
THAT'S THE PROBLEM...

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ONE OF US MUST BE ABLE TO GET TO IT! MAYBE FLY OVER IT--
FLINT!
FLINT!
HE CAN'T HEAR ME OVER THE NOISE!
GOTTA GET UP THERE FAST! BUT HOW?
...HUH?
WHAT'RE YOU ?
I GOT THIS. BA A ACK UP
WHAT IS SHE DOING?
~WOW~

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FLINT! WE NEED YOUR HELP...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WE KNOW HOW TO TURN OFF THE MACHINE, BUT FLINT NEEDS TO DO IT!
WHAT?!
NO, YOU CAN'T LET HIM ENDANGER HIMSELF!
WE'RE IN DANGER ALREADY! HE S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GLIDE RIGHT OVER--
AND IF HE FALLS INTO THE KILL ZONE? DO YOU WANT THAT ON YOUR CONSCIENCE?!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS! KEN--
IS NOT MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR BROTHER!
FLINT IS SO IMPORTANT TO YOU, CASS!
SO HE S IMPORTANT TO ME

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IS HE ALIVE?
SHOULD WE TACKLE THE CHAMELEON?
THIS IS %$!& D UP.
HE'S BREATHING
BARELY!
GOD I THINK HE'D RATHER BE DEAD.
HE CAN'T DIE! HE NEEDS TO TELL US HOW TO CURE THE PRINCIPAL'S CANCER!
OH FOR...
SHE DOESN'T HAVE CANCER.
WHAT?!
YES, SHE HAD CANCER, BUT
UGH. KEN LET YOU THINK HER LIFE WAS IN DANGER SO YOU WOULD THINK HE WAS GOING TO CURE HER IF YOU LET HIM FINISH THIS EXPERIMENT. GREAT JOB PLAYING IT SAFE, GUYS.
I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH KEN TOLD YOU. WHILE TRYING TO FIND THE CURE FOR CANCER, HE STUMBLED ONTO A WAY TO REVERSE AGING USING TUMORS THAT COULD CONSUME EVERY TYPE OF CELL IN THE BODY AND THEN MUTATE INTO YOUNGER COPIES OF THEM.
THE TUMORS BECOME FUNCTIONING, HEALTHY CELLS, WHICH MEANS BY THE END SHE'LL BE CANCER FREE. IT'S HARMLESS.
"HARMLESS?" SHE'S SO WEAK SHE FAINTED!
I BET SHE DID! EVERY CELL OF HER BODY WAS JUST DESTROYED AND REPLACED. IT'S INTENSE, BUT SHE'LL WAKE UP FEELING LIKE A MILLION BUCKS
THEN HOW DO WE MAKE HER OLD AGAIN?
IS THAT AGEIST?
I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO CURE KEN. HE WAS SO SURE THIS WOULD WORK.
HE ONLY WANTED MORE TIME TESTING HIS CANCER CURE... AND IT'S DESTROYED HIM.

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IF HE ZAPPED HIMSELF TO TEST IT, THEN THAT MEANS...
HE HAD A BENIGN TUMOR. IF THIS HAD WORKED, IT'D BE GONE, NOT... EVERYWHERE
SO HE THOUGHT THESE DEVICES HAD WHAT HE NEEDED? THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD MAKE ALL THIS WORK TOGETHER.
BUT THE THING WORKED ON ME.
OW.
AND ME.
WELL, HE GOT MY MIXER'S CONFIGURATION SETTINGS WRONG. THERE'S A BUG IN THE CODE THAT I HAVE TO ADJUST MANUALLY EVERY FEW ACTIVATIONS. STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT A FIX FOR THAT.
THIS TOP JACK STOPS WORKING SOMETIMES. YOU NEED TO USE THE BOTTOM.
GUYS, YOU COULD PROBABLY BYPASS THAT BAD REGULATOR IF YOU USE MY PROJECTOR TO STABILIZE THE ENERGY INPUT.
ARE YOU SAYING WE CAN FIX THIS?
UMM, WELL...
YEAH.
OKAY, BUT THAT WON'T FIX KEN'S BAD CALCULATIONS.
THEY AREN'T BAD.
THIS COULD HAVE DONE WHAT HE WANTED. HE JUST DOESN'T KNOW OUR EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS WE DO.
LET US HELP.

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UHHH...
WE'D NEED A C.T SCAN TO KNOW FOR SURE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HIS IMMUNE SYSTEM IS DESTROYING WHAT'S LEFT OF THE NEOPLASIA.
IT'S ALL GONE.
GUYS...
...WE JUST CURED CANCER.
NO...
NO. NO!
YOU SELF-RIGHTEOUS, GLORY-HOGGING VULTURES!
I CURED CANCER!

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CALM DOWN! WE'VE COME THIS CLOSE TO A UNIVERSAL CURE, JUST LIKE YOU HOPED!
WE CAN SAVE YOUR DA
DON'T YOU DARE MENTION HIM AFTER SCREWING THIS ALL UP!
IF THAT SQUIRREL HADN'T OVERHEARD YOU! IF YOU STAYED HIDDEN!
I SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS FROM THE START!
POK
CRASH
HANDS UP!
HANDS UP!
NOBODY MOVE!
WELL. IT S OVER.

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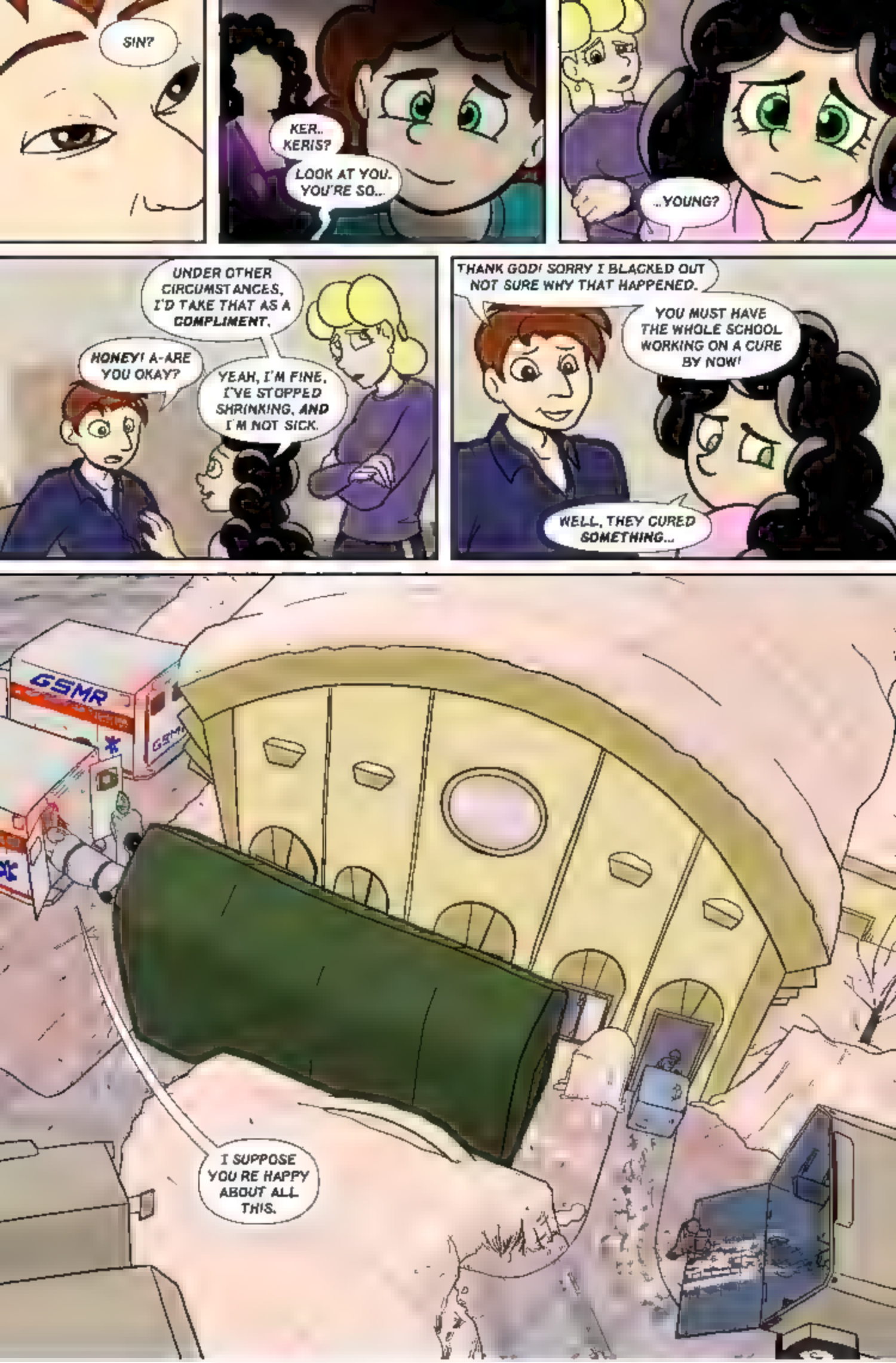
SIN?
KER..
KERIS?
LOOK AT YOU.
YOU'RE SO...
..YOUNG?
UNDER OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES, I'D TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT.
HONEY! A-ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH, I'M FINE. I'VE STOPPED SHRINKING, AND I'M NOT SICK.
THANK GOD! SORRY I BLACKED OUT NOT SURE WHY THAT HAPPENED.
YOU MUST HAVE THE WHOLE SCHOOL WORKING ON A CURE BY NOW!
WELL, THEY CURED SOMETHING...
GSMR
I SUPPOSE YOU RE HAPPY ABOUT ALL THIS.

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NOT NEARLY AS HAPPY AS I WANT TO BE.
YOU ALMOST DIED. A LOT OF PEOPLE COULD HAVE DIED.
LIKE DEMETRIUS, WHEN YOU PULLED HIM OFF THE BALCONY?
I
I SH SHOULDN'T HAVE
I LIKED THAT YOU.
THAT YOU KNEW THE STAKES WERE TOO HIGH TO COMPROMISE.
I DON'T LIKE THIS YOU. THIS YOU THINKS I M WRONG AND ALLOWED EVERYONE ELSE TO TAKE CREDIT FOR MY INVENTION.
TH-THEIR INVENTIONS, KEN. BUT YOUR VISION. YOU C CAN SHARE THE CREDIT.
NO. I WANT NO PART OF THIS ANYMORE.
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO SAVE ME.
I WISH YOU HAD FAILED.

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GEEZ, THEY TOOK EVERYTHING.
BUT MINE WASN'T EVEN PLUGGED INTO ANY OF IT...
OH NO. YOU MEAN I'M STUCK LIKE THIS?
OH WELL.
AT LEAST THE CONCEPT MAKES SOME PEOPLE HAP.
PPAUGH!
UH, SORRY, WALKER.
YEAH, I DUNNO WHAT HAPPENED.
THE BIOELECTRICS IN MY HAIR MUST HAVE SHORTED OUT
W-WELL... WHITE'S A GOOD LOOK FOR YOU. YOU LOOK GOOD.
SO DO YOU.
THANKS.
THANKS TO ALL OF YOU.
KEN MADE A TEMPTING OFFER TO JOIN HIM AND YOU STILL REFUSED.
I DON'T BLAME THOSE WHO ACCEPTED, THOUGH.
I GAVE YOU PLENTY OF REASONS TO DO IT.

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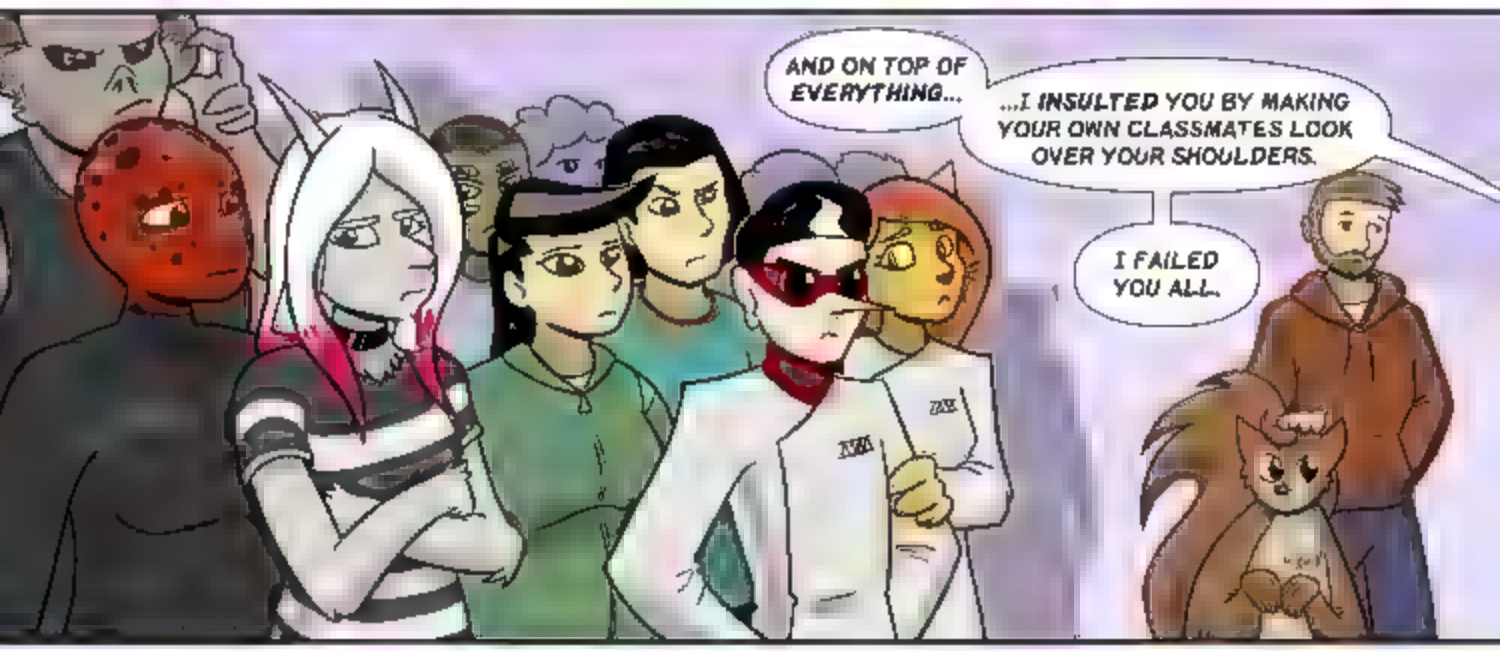
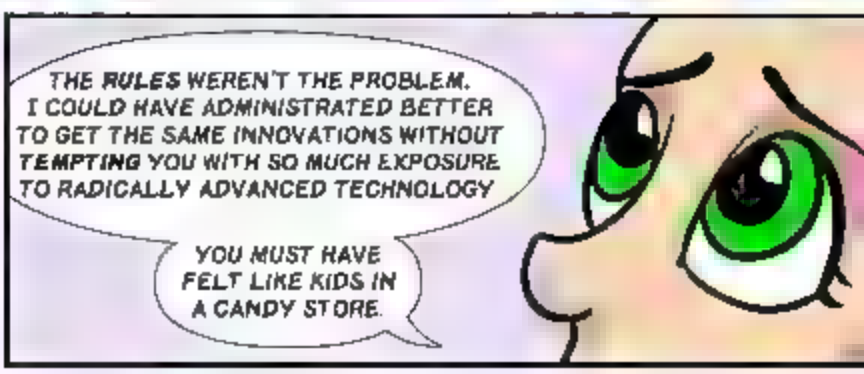
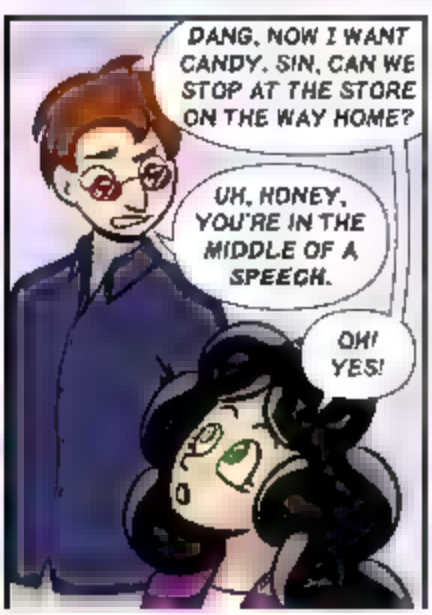
DOCTOR ATTIC?
I GAVE YOU THE TOOLS TO CHASE YOUR DREAMS AND THEN TIED YOU DOWN WITH SO MANY RULES YOU NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO CATCH THEM.



WE NEEDED THOSE RULES. KEN THREW OUT THE RULES AND LOOK WHAT HAPPENED.
HE SUCCESSFULLY REVERSED THE AGING PROCESS AND FOUND THE WORLD'S FIRST POTENTIALLY GUARANTEED CURE FOR A FORM OF CANCER.
AND NEARLY KILLED HIMSELF, AND THE REST OF US TOO!


THE RULES WEREN'T THE PROBLEM. I COULD HAVE ADMINISTRATED BETTER TO GET THE SAME INNOVATIONS WITHOUT TEMPTING YOU WITH SO MUCH EXPOSURE TO RADICALLY ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY
YOU MUST HAVE FELT LIKE KIDS IN A CANDY STORE.



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WHAT?
NO!
YOU EXPECT US TO WALK AWAY FROM ALL THIS?
I M OKAY WITH THAT IF IT MEANS WE RE OFF THE HOOK.
ACTUALLY, THERE ARE POLICE HERE WHO WOULD LIKE A WORD WITH SOME OF YOU.
WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE US? THERE S NO OTHER SCHOOL LIKE THIS WHERE WE CAN GO.
AND CASS AND THE OTHERS STILL NEED TO GET BACK TO NORMAL!
BUT ONLY THE ONES WHO WANT TO!
WE'LL WORK THIS ALL OUT, SOMEHOW.
IT S JUST THAT THINGS WILL BE DIFFERENT. I WON'T BE CALLING ALL THE SHOTS. I'LL WORK WITH YOU, AND YOUR PARENTS, AND THE GOVERNMENT, UNTIL EVERY ONE OF YOU IS NOT ONLY IN THE RIGHT BODY, BUT A FULL-FLEDGED SCIENTIST.
MY DREAM HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO HELP YOU FIND YOURS, AND I PROMISE NOT TO FAIL YOU AGAIN.
THAT IS...
...IF...
...IF YOU GIVE ME A SECOND CHANCE.
DANG IT, THAT'S REALLY WORKING.
THIRTEEN, TAKE A MENTAL NOTE: "MODIFY GOGGLES TO FILTER OUT CUTENESS."

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19:41
Mom
19:20
19:20
19:39
FIGURES. YOU'D THINK ALL THE COPS IN THE COUNTY WOULD BE AT THE SCHOOL OR DEALING WITH THE BLIZZARD, BUT I GUESS THE NATIONAL GUARD HAD THOSE COVERED.
THANK GOD IT WASN'T YOUR COLLAR BONE.
I WAS SO SURE IT WAS. YOU WERE SHIVERING SO MUCH, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE INTERNAL BLEEDING OR...
SORRY.
I JUST KEEP THINKING WHAT IF IT WAS WORSE? WHAT IF YOU D--
#&@$ KEN.
SERIOUSLY #&@$ HIM.
I'M NOT GOING TO WATCH MY LANGUAGE. YOU'RE TOO IMPORTANT
WAY TOO IMPORTANT

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ALL RIGHT. WE LL TALK TOMORROW. AND I LL ACTUALLY PICK UP THIS TIME.
GOOD NIGHT, GENERAL.
SO WERE YOU, UH, SERIOUS ABOUT GETTING CANDY?
NO.
WELL, SORTA? BUT NO.
ARE YOU SURE YOU RE OKAY, MOM?
HOW CAN I EVEN ANSWER THAT?
I FEEL SO DIFFERENT. I FEEL REALLY... BUBBLY. AND EXTREMELY TINY THINGS ARE HUGE THAT KINDA FRIGHTENS ME.
BUT NOTHING HURTS, AND I'VE STILL GOT ALL MY MEMORIES. THAT S PROVIDING A LOT OF COMFORT RIGHT NOW
EXCUSE ME, DOCTOR..
I WANT TO SAY I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I DID TO YOU.
IT S ALL RIGHT
IT'S NOT. KEN NEVER BOTHERED TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO MAKE YOU OLDER AGAIN.
CONSIDERING WHAT YOU ALL JUST ACCOMPLISHED, I THINK YOU LL FIND ONE.
AND IF WE DON'T... I'VE RUINED YOUR LIFE.
KESTREL, WORST CASE, YOU ADDED FIFTY YEARS TO MY LIFE.
REGRET IS GOOD. IT S THE FIRST STEP TO BECOMING A BETTER PERSON.
BUT MOVE BEYOND REGRET PROVE TO YOURSELF AND THE REST OF US THAT YOU LEARNED SOMETHING IMPORTANT TODAY STEP OUT OF KEN S SHADOW.
UNCHAIN YOURSELF.
DO IT AND I ADD A CHARGE OF RESISTING ARREST.
I WAS SPEAKING METAPHORICALLY.

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CATOMIX
12

UTC

FORMATION CRISIS

SO THAT'S IT? IT'S SHUTTING DOWN?
WE CERTAINLY HAVE MORE THINGS TO ASK DOCTOR ATTIC, BUT SHE S--
WE'VE ALL BEEN THROUGH A LOT IT CAN WAIT 'TIL AFTER THE HOLIDAY
SPEAKING OF THANKSGIVING, ARE YOU STILL PLANNING TO COME OVER?
I... I GUESS.
YOU "GUESS"?
IF YOUR FAMILY WANTS ME, AFTER WHAT I DID TO FLINT
I TRIED SAYING THIS EARLIER, BUT... WHY NOT ASK HIM?
I DON'T BLAME YOU.
I NEVER, EVER WILL.
SO, HEY...
CAN WE TREAT THIS FLUFFY TWERP TO DINNER AND FROZEN YOGURT?
IT'S THE LEAST WE CAN DO FOR A HERO.
AW YEAH, FRO-YO! WITH EXTRA NUTS!
YOU'RE EXTRA NUTS.
I JUST WANNA GO HOME AND SLEEP THIS DAY'S GONE ON FOREVER.
THE NEXT TIME THERE'S A CRISIS, IT BETTER BE SOMETHING WE CAN FIX QUICKLY
NEXT:
THE MOTHER TRILOGY

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UTC : THE BAAAD COMICS PRESENTS:

URGENT Thanksgiving CRISIS

THANKSGIVING DAY AT THE CALLOWAY HOUSEHOLD...

THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME OVER FOR THANKSGIVING, MR. CALLOWAY.

WE INSISTED, NOAH. IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE DATING CASS, WE'D LIKE TO SPEND MORE TIME GETTING TO KNOW YOU.

ESPECIALLY UNDER THE .. UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES

MEANING YOU'RE NOT ENTIRELY HAPPY THAT A SALAMANDER IS DATING YOUR DAUGHTER?

I MEAN THAT A LOT OF THINGS HAVEN'T GONE EVERYONE'S WAY THIS YEAR, BUT WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL WE CAN ALL COME TOGETHER AROUND ONE TABLE IN ORDER TO FIND SOMETHING TO APPRECIATE IN ONE ANOTHER.

TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST, I'M NOT ENTIRELY HAPPY MY DAUGHTER IS A GOAT, EITHER, BUT THAT'S THE HAND WE WERE ALL DEALT.

DAD! I'M SITTING RIGHT HERE!

NOT ALL OF US.. WHERE'S FLINT?

I EXCUSED HIM FOR A FEW MINUTES THERE WAS SOMETHING IMPORTANT HE HAD TO DO

KONK KONK KONK

THANKSGIVING DAY AT MONTOVARIUS MANOR

I THOUGHT I GAVE THE CHEF THE DAY OFF.

YOU DID, MASTER. I PREPARED EVERYTHING MYSELF.

INDEED? EXPERIMENT THIRTEEN, YOU'VE OUTDONE YOURSELF AGAIN. THIS IS AN IMPRESSIVE SPREAD.

THANK YOU, MASTER! I WILL BE IN THE KITCHEN IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE YOU NEED

THIRTEEN? THERE IS ACTUALLY ONE MORE THING.

End

Jw 11-14

SIN, WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE! ONE OF US HAS TO WATCH TROM AND THE TURKEY.
KERIS' SHIFT AT THE STORE LASTS TWO MORE HOURS. I CAN'T DRIVE. YOU KNOW ALL THIS SO I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY I M STILL TALKING JUST GET TO THE AIRPORT.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'LL BE OKAY BY YOURSELF? TROM WAS ALREADY A HANDFUL WHEN WE WERE BOTH ADULTS.
KEN REVERSED MY AGE, NOT MY EXPERIENCE WE LL BE FINE.
GO GET THE FAMILY
I'LL CALL EVERY FIVE MINUTES.
TEN. AND USE HANDS-FREE.
NO PROMISES.
SLAM
HMM. ON THE CHEEK. THAT'S NEW
ALL RIGHT, JEN.
YOU MIGHT BE RUNT-SIZED, BUT YOU CAN STILL HANDLE A RUNT
OKAY TROM, LET'S GET YOU INTO YOUR GOOD CLOTHES.
OH BOY.

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HUFF!
HUFF!
TROMBONE ATTIC, YOU'RE IN BIG TR--!
H-HEY! STOP!
!
AAAA

SPLORCH
OKAY. OKAY. IT'S OKAY.
RING RING
HI, SIN.
WE ALREADY MADE A LITTLE MESS BUT WE'LL HAVE IT ALL CLEANED UP. DON'T WORRY ABOUT US, JUST DRIVE.
GOTTA GO!
FOOSH!
DIFFERENT AROUND HER, BUT THEN IT WOULDN'T BE THANKSGIVING IF WE ALL DIDN'T FEEL A BIT -
--AWKWARD.
Z
THE END

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LOOK AHEAD! SEE? THEY DIDN'T LAY FENCING THIS FAR BACK.
ABOUT TIME. MY TOES ARE NUMB.
I TOLD YOU TO WEAR LAYERS.
I TOLD YOU WE COULD HAVE SNUCK PAST THE GUARD IN THE PARKING LOT
SEEING THEM MAKES ME ADMIRE YOUR SIBLING BOND WITH FLINT.
PLEASE. THAT LITTLE TWERP IS...
...A TWERP.
VERY CONVINCING. WHO'RE YOU TEXTING?
ASH AND DEMETRIUS INVITED US ON A DOUBLE DATE TO THE ALLIUM.
UH, CASS, THAT'S A FANCY RESTAURANT. AND WE'RE--
YEAH, I KNOW. WE DON'T GO INTO PUBLIC UNLESS WE NEED THINGS. WELL, I THINK WE NEED TO HAVE A GOOD TIME, THE WAY REGULAR PEOPLE DO.
FAIR POINT.
WHILE WE'RE AT IT, THERE'S A FEW OTHER THINGS WE CAN DO IF WE WANT TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP LIKE REGULAR PEOPLE...
OH, STOP
HEY, KEEP UP THE PACE BACK THERE!
KATSUKO
C'MON! BEFORE I GET FROSTBITE!
QUIET, TOHO.
WE'RE NOT IN A HURRY. LET'S WAIT UNTIL IT GETS DARKER BEFORE CROSSING THE GROUNDS.

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MY COAT SHOULD BE OUT THERE IN THE HALL.
MINE'S IN MY LOCKER. WE'LL KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR YOUR BEAR, KATSUKO.
IF YOU FIND HIM, SAY THE SLEEP COMMAND IMMEDIATELY.
AND REMEMBER, NO MATTER WHAT, DON'T TOUCH HIM.
SAY "NIGHT NIGHT," NO TOUCHY. GOT IT.
WHAT MAKES IT SO DANGEROUS, ANYWAY? ISN'T IT SUPPOSED TO PROTECT PEOPLE?
MY BEARS HAVE PROTO-DNA IN THEIR SYSTEMS THAT THEY AUGMENT WITH BASE PAIRS OF THEIR OWNER'S DNA AS A WAY TO IMPRINT ON THEM. THAT HELPS THEM IDENTIFY THEIR CHILD, AND TO FIND THEM IF THEY GO MISSING.
IDEAL IMPRINTING PROCESS
BUT CAMMY'S BEEN GLITCHING. IF HE COMES INTO CONTACT WITH A LIVING THING, HE MIGHT NOT STOP AT JUST COPYING THEIR DNA.
THE SLEEP COMMAND IS THE ONLY WAY TO CONTROL HIM SINCE YOU BROKE MY WATCH.
BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE AN OWNER, RIGHT?
HE MIGHT BE LOOKING FOR ONE.
RIGHT NOW, HE'S BROKEN AND ALONE WITH NO ONE TO GUIDE HIM.
WE HAVE TO HELP HIM BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE TRIES.
BETTER THEM THAN US, SOUNDS LIKE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO AGREE. JUST HELP ME.
YEAH, FINE. I'LL LOOK DOWN HERE... BECAUSE WE ALL THINK SPLITTING UP IS A GREAT IDEA, APPARENTLY.
UGGHHH. WHY'D I MAKE HIM COME?
THIS ISN'T GOING TO REDEEM TOHO. HE STILL ISN'T APOLOGIZING FOR WHAT HE DID.
MAYBE IF CAMMY FOUND HIM FIRST...

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ONE AND A HALF MILES LATER...
I KNEW CAMMY'S GLITCHES INVOLVED HIS IMPRINTING ABILITY, BUT I WASN'T SURE HOW BEFORE.
INSTEAD OF ADDING MY DNA TO HIS BEAR GENES, IT WENT IN REVERSE.
I M SORRY YOU LOST HIM, BUT I'M GLAD WE DIDN'T LOSE YOU THAT UNCONTROLLED MUTATION COULD HAVE TORN YOUR CELLS APART
IT WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED AT ALL IF TOHO HADN'T SLAMMED THE DOOR IN CASS' FACE.
HEY, I WAS PROTECTING YOU!
CASS WAS SAYING THE SLEEP COMMAND, YOU IDIOT!
OH REALLY? ALL I COULD HEAR WAS TERRIFIED BLEATING RIGHT IN MY--!
RRRRENOUGH!
CAMMY NEEDED--
I NEEDED YOUR HELP, AND ALL YOU DID WAS COMPLAIN AND FOOL AROUND IN A CLOSET.
KATSUKO, WE RE SORRY
WE WERE TALKING ABOUT A DATE, AND ONE THOUGHT LED TO ANOTHER, AND BEFORE I KNEW IT WE WERE...
...THERE'S NO EXCUSING IT. WE'LL HELP YOU FIX THIS.
NO, YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO.
I SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS ON MY OWN IN THE FIRST PLACE.
BESIDES, YOU TWO STILL NEED YOUR OWN CURES.
AND MAYBE YOU HAVE SOME OTHER THINGS ONLY YOU CAN WORK OUT. UNTIL YOU DO...
...PLEASE BE MORE CAREFUL. WE'RE ONLY GONNA GET SO MANY CLOSE CALLS, YOU KNOW?
COME ON. HOME IS THIS WAY.
THE END

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WHY WON'T THE CORD WORK? I SHOWED YOU HOW TO TIE IT.
I CAN'T GET MY PAWS TO DO IT RIGHT.
BETHIDES, THE CORD PINCHES MY WINGFLAPS.
THEY CAN SCRUNCH UP AT YOUR WAIST. YOU CAN LOOSEN THE CORD WHEN YOU WANT TO GLIDE.
IT HURTS.
I M TELLING YOU, MOM! I CAN FEEL IT AND IT'TH BAD, OKAY?
OKAY, I'M SORRY. I M JUST TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET YOU BACK INTO PANTS.
YOU WON'T.
FLYING SQUIRRELS DON'T NEED PANTHS.
CASS, THAT'S REGULAR MILK!
YOURS IS THE ONE WITH THE GREEN CAP!

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OH, THANKS MOM.
DEFINITELY DON'T WANT ANOTHER ROUND OF INDIGESTION.
IS IT THE-- CAN YOU SEE COLOR LIKE THAT? I COULD WRITE ON THE CAPS.
NONO, THE COLORS I CAN SEE FINE GOATS SEE COLORS.
I WAS DISTRACTED THINKING ABOUT THE DOUBLE DATE.
SPEAKING OF, HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT GETTING YOUR HORNS SHORTENED? IF I WERE NOAH I'D FIND THEM A LITTLE IMPOSING.
UH... HOW WOULD I SHORTEN...?
WE COULD GET YOU A MECHANICAL FILER... LIKE HELLBOY USES.
YOU THINK I SHOULD LOOK LIKE HELLBOY?
O-OKAY, BAD EXAMPLE.
I'M JUST SAYING YOU SHOULD BE MORE AWARE OF YOUR APPEARANCE.
GOSH, YOU MEAN I HAVEN'T BEEN?
GUESS I'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE GIANT GOAT SHNOZ IN MY PERIPHERAL VISION. THANKS FOR THE REMINDER.
IT WAS JUST A SUGGESTION.
I'LL CONSIDER IT.
THIS IS TOO MUCH.

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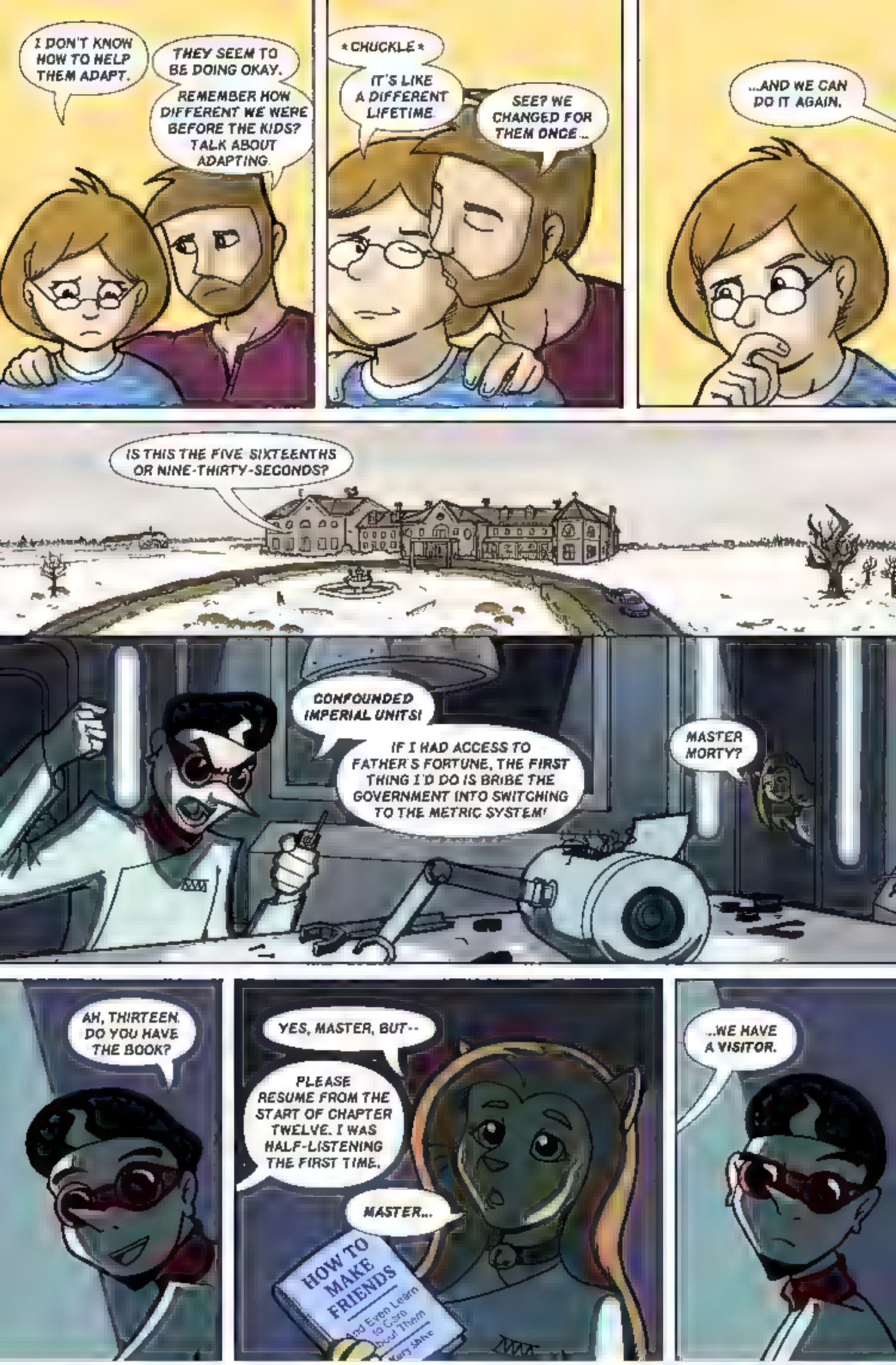
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO HELP THEM ADAPT.
THEY SEEM TO BE DOING OKAY.
REMEMBER HOW DIFFERENT WE WERE BEFORE THE KIDS? TALK ABOUT ADAPTING.
CHUCKLE
IT'S LIKE A DIFFERENT LIFETIME.
SEE? WE CHANGED FOR THEM ONCE...
...AND WE CAN DO IT AGAIN.
IS THIS THE FIVE SIXTEENTHS OR NINE-THIRTY-SECONDS?
CONFOUNDED IMPERIAL UNITS!
IF I HAD ACCESS TO FATHER'S FORTUNE, THE FIRST THING I'D DO IS BRIBE THE GOVERNMENT INTO SWITCHING TO THE METRIC SYSTEM!
MASTER MORTY?
AH, THIRTEEN. DO YOU HAVE THE BOOK?
YES, MASTER, BUT--
PLEASE RESUME FROM THE START OF CHAPTER TWELVE. I WAS HALF-LISTENING THE FIRST TIME.
MASTER...
HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS
And Even Learn to Care About Them
...WE HAVE A VISITOR.

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MRS. CALLOWAY.
WE WEREN'T EXPECTING YOU.
HELLO, MORTIMER. I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT MY KIDS.
THIRTEEN, BRING SOME WATER.
IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN GET YOU?
NO, THANK YOU.
THIRTEEN, JUST THE ONE WATER.

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I'M...
I'M WORKING ON A NEW APPROACH FOR THE CURE.
IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO ENGINEER A BATCH OF NANOMACHINES TO COUNTER TRANSFORM CASS AND FLINT WHILE ERADICATING THE ORIGINAL MACHINES ALREADY INSIDE THEM
THAT SOUNDS DANGEROUS.
EXTREMELY.
THERE'S A VERY GOOD CHANCE THE RESULTING "NANO-WAR," AS I CALL IT, WOULD REND CASS AND FLINT INTO PILES OF THEIR BASE ORGANIC COMPONENTS.
I REALIZE THAT'S NOT THE PREFERRED OUTCOME.
MORTIMER, I DIDN'T COME HERE FOR A PROGRESS REPORT.
WHY, THEN?
DO YOU STILL HAVE ANY OF THE ORIGINAL NANOBOTS? THE ONES YOUR FATHER DESIGNED, THAT YOU USED IN THE FIRST PLACE?
I CAN CERTAINLY REPLICATE THE ORIGINAL DESIGN.
COULD YOU USE THEM ON ME?

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NOW, LET S BE CLEAR, I HAVE PLENTY OF CONTEMPT FOR YOU AND WHAT YOU'VE DONE.
BUT, I KNOW YOU'RE SINCERE ABOUT TRYING TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT.
AND EVER SINCE I HEARD YOU PICKED A GOAT FOR CASS BECAUSE OF HER NAME, IT'S BEEN GNAWING AT ME.
I PICKED "CASHMERE," YOU KNOW LEON WANTED TO NAME HER ROSALIND, AFTER THE CHEMIST
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DID THIS TO MY KIDS... BUT I CAN'T HELP FEELING LIKE I CONTRIBUTED.
IF IT HELPS, MY SECOND CHOICE WOULD HAVE BEEN A MOLE RAT.
THAT... MAKES GOATS SEEM A LITTLE BETTER, YEAH.
WHY DO YOU WANT THIS?

WHEN CASS WAS THREE, WE VACATIONED IN CALIFORNIA. SHE SAW THE OCEAN FOR THE FIRST TIME. SHE RAN UP AND DOWN THE BEACH. HER FACE WAS BRIGHTER THAN THE SUN.

THEN SHE STARTED SHOUTING.

CRYING.

IT WAS JUST A CUT FROM A SEASHELL, BUT SHE WAS SCREAMING SO LOUD IT MIGHT AS WELL HAVE BEEN A BROKEN ANKLE. I HELD HER AND COMFORTED HER WHILE LEON RAN FOR A BANDAGE.

I KNEW SHE D BE FINE, BUT AT THAT MOMENT, SHE DIDN'T. I WAS THERE FOR HER.

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THAT DAY IN DOCTOR ATTIC S OFFICE, WHEN I SAW CASS AND FLINT...
...MY CHILDREN...
...THEIR RAGGED, HORRIBLE BODIES...
I KNEW IT WAS THEM AND I LOVED THEM AS MUCH AS THE DAY THEY WERE BORN... BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
GIVE ME HORNS, OR A TAIL, OR WINGFLAPS.
GIVE ME EVERYTHING YOU GAVE THEM.
I NEED TO EXPERIENCE THEIR PAIN MYSELF.
...
I COULD DO THAT.
BUT YOU STILL WOULDN'T KNOW
WHAT?
I CAN ONLY REPLICATE THE RESULTS OF AN EXPERIMENT IF THE CONDITIONS ARE THE SAME, AND THEY RE NOT.
I TRANSFORMED CASS AND FLINT AGAINST THEIR WILL. IT IS THAT CONDITION WHICH HAS HAD THE MOST DAMAGING EFFECT.
YOU WON'T FEEL WHAT THEY FEEL, BECAUSE YOU WANT IT.
SO THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO.
I CAN TELL YOU WHAT I SAW THAT DAY IN DOCTOR ATTIC'S OFFICE.

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YOU STOOD THERE IN THE DOORWAY, GAWKING LIKE A NEANDERTHAL...
...THEN YOU HELD OUT YOUR ARMS, YOU HUGGED CASS, AND YOU TOLD HER YOU LOVED HER.
THAT MOMENT, ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT WAS HOW LONG IT HAS BEEN SINCE MY MOTHER HUGGED ME, AND HOW MY FATHER HAS NEVER TOLD ME HE LOVED ME.
IN MY ASSESSMENT, BASED ON THE OBSERVABLE EVIDENCE...
...YOU ALREADY MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF A SUITABLE PARENT.
THANK YOU.
THANK YOU.
THE END

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CATOMIX
13

UTC

NOPE.
C'MON, IT WORKS IN TONS OF MOVIES. AND I MUST A READ IT IN AT LEAST FIVE DIFFERENT BOOKTH.
NUH-UH.
PICSHUR IT NOAH'S JAW DROPPING... YOU WALKING TOWARDS HIM...
...YOUR HAIR SWAYING MAJETHTICALLY IN SLOW MOTION, BRUSHING THE FLOOR...
...YOUR POLISHED HORNS GLEAMING IN THE CANDLELIGHT...
OKAY. YOU FIND ME A BOOK THAT DESCRIBES EXACTLY WHAT YOU JUST SAID, AND I'LL LET IT GROW OUT ALL DAY TOMORROW.
IF YOU HATE YOUR HAIR SO MUTH, WHY DONTH YOU CUT OFF YOUR BEARD, TOO?
OH. RIGHT

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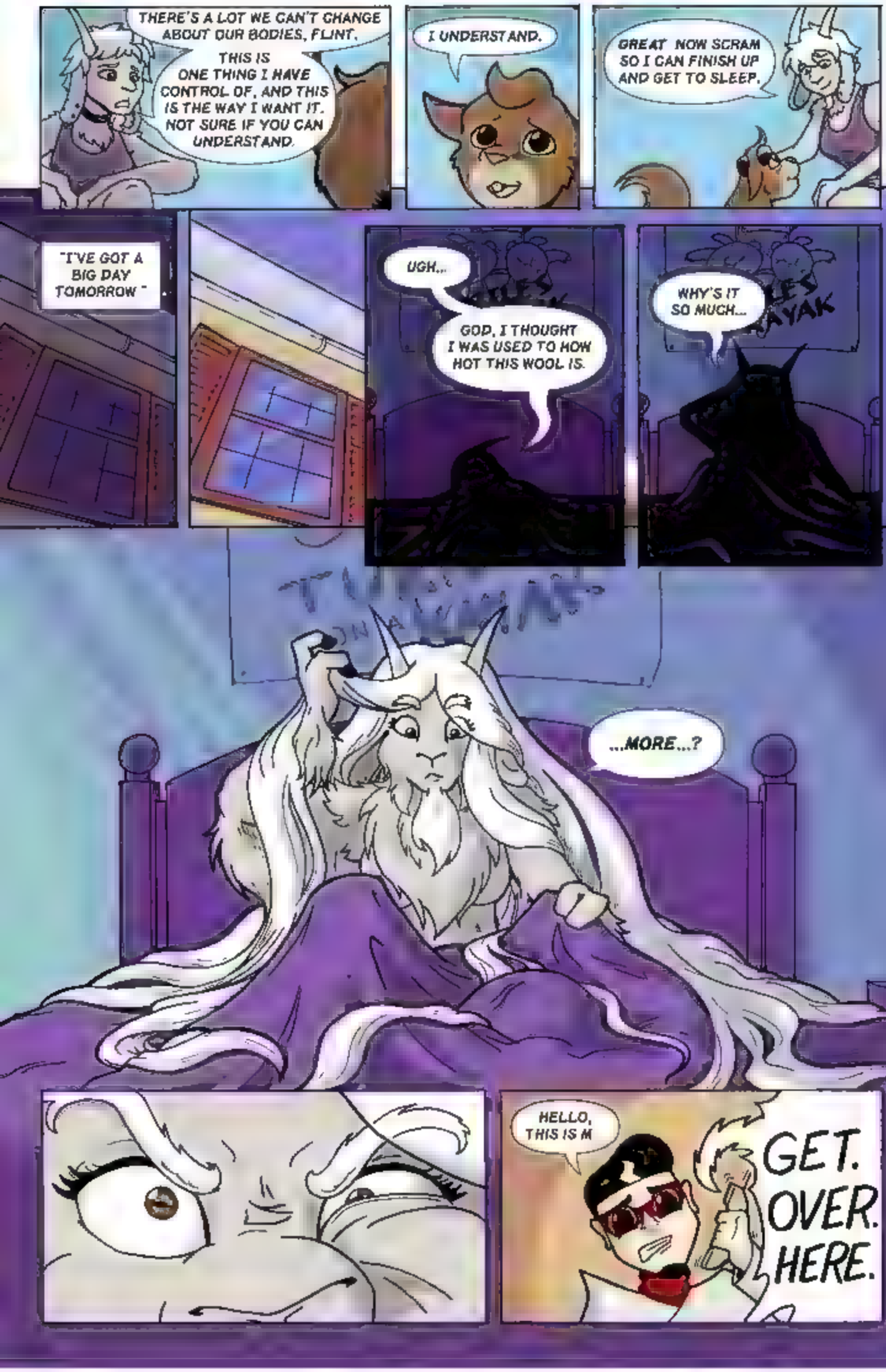
THERE'S A LOT WE CAN'T CHANGE ABOUT OUR BODIES, FLINT.
THIS IS ONE THING I HAVE CONTROL OF, AND THIS IS THE WAY I WANT IT. NOT SURE IF YOU CAN UNDERSTAND.
I UNDERSTAND.
GREAT. NOW SCRAM SO I CAN FINISH UP AND GET TO SLEEP.
"I'VE GOT A BIG DAY TOMORROW."
UGH...
GOD, I THOUGHT I WAS USED TO HOW HOT THIS WOOL IS.
WHY'S IT SO MUCH...
...MORE...?
HELLO, THIS IS M
GET. OVER. HERE.

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IT'S YOUR WINTER COAT
I FIGURED. SHOULD I BE CONCERNED THAT IT ALL GREW IN ONE NIGHT?
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE HODGEPOGE OF CAPRA DNA I PUT INTO THE NANOBOTS HAS EXACERBATED THE EFFECTS OF THE MUTATION YOU GAVE YOURSELF TO MAKE YOUR HAIR GROW FASTER.
THE NANOBOT HACK NOAH USED TO TRY SHIFTING FLINT WORKED BECAUSE YOU HADN'T PROGRAMMED THEM FOR HIS BODY, BUT IS THERE ANY WAY TO BUILD OFF THAT AND ADJUST MY BOTS TO REVERSE THIS?
NOAH AND I ALREADY EXPLORED THAT, TO NO SUCCESS, EVEN IF IT WAS POSSIBLE
I'D END UP WITH EVEN MORE GOAT DNA, LIKE THE FIRST TIME YOU TRIED TO FIX ME.
OR BECOME A PUDDLE OF PROTEINS. ACTUALLY, I'M SURPRISED YOU SURVIVED THIS.
GROWING THAT MUCH HAIR IN A FEW HOURS SHOULD HAVE CONSUMED ALL YOUR BODY'S NUTRIENTS.
HMM. THAT EXPLAINS WHY I'VE HAD SUCH AN APPETITE LATELY
IN THAT CASE, YOUR CHOICE OF DIET IS COMMENDABLE.
THIS COAT IS POSITIVELY LUSTROUS.
HEY. CASS DIDN'T ATHK FOR ALL THIS.
SHE WANTS TO GET RID OF IT. IT DOETHN'T MATTER HOW NICE IT LOOKS.
I RETRACT MY COMPLIMENT

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CAN I GET RID OF THIS? IS IT STILL GROWING?
IT'S NOT ANY LONGER THAN WHEN WE FIRST CHECKED. WE COULD TRY...
...SHEARING IT
IF MY GROOMING KIT HOLDS UP
THEN THE DATE'S STILL ON.
DATE?
CASS AND NOAH ARE GOING WITH ASH AND DEMETRIUTH TO THE ALLIUM!
THAT SPIT AND SAWDUST?
THEY THREW MY FAMILY OUT ONCE.
NOT TO OFFEND, BUT I FEAR YOU MIGHT EXPERIENCE SIMILAR.
ASH HAS THAT COVERED. WE'RE EXPECTED.
BUT I'D RATHER NOT SHOW UP WITH LITTLE MISS PERSISTENT HERE... I NEED TO FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.
LET ME HELP!

H-HELLO, MR. CALLOWAY
HI, NOAH.
ARE... YOU ALRIGHT?
MY SALAMANDER HALF DOESN'T LIKE THE COLD. NO B BIG DEAL, I BOUGHT THIS THERMO SUIT 'S COMFY.
OKAY, UM... CASS SHOULD BE ALMOST READY.
PLEASE TELL HER SHE CAN TAKE HER TIME. I KNOW I'M A LITTLE EARL--
ERR...
UHHH...

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YOU REALLY OKAY?
I MIGHT HAVE A COUPLE OF BRUISES, BUT MY WOOL WILL DO A GREAT JOB HIDING THOSE.
GUESS THIS MEANS I'VE OFFICIALLY FALLEN FOR YOU.
SORRY, THAT WAS DUMB.
NO, IT... UH...
I COULDN'T SAY IT BEFORE, BUT YOU LOOK AMAZING.
AND YOU LOOK COLD.
IT'S GOTTEN HARD TO BE OUTSIDE LATELY THE COLD MAKES ME SLUGGISH.
BUT DON'T WORRY, I'M FINE TO DRIVE. THE HEAT'S ON FULL BLAST.
SURE IS.
OH, YOUR WOOL. I CAN-
KEEP IT ON.
HEY GUYS!

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GOOD EVENING. MAY I TAKE YOUR COAT, UH, SIR?
THANK YOU...
THANKS FOR HAVING ME OVER FOR MOVIE NIGHT
SURE! I REALLY MISS WHEN WE USTHED TO DO THIS.
JUTH WISH AINSLEY COULD COME TOO.
..WIPE OUT THE WHOLE SWARM.
MIGHT BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO VERY HIGH FREQUENCY
WELL, SHE.. UH... YOU KNOW, LOTS GOING ON.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
LOUD AND DISTRACTING? I'VE GOT JUST THE THING!
HEY, YOUR FAVORITE PART S COMING UP!
OOH!
HUH?
LET S MAKE SOME NOISE

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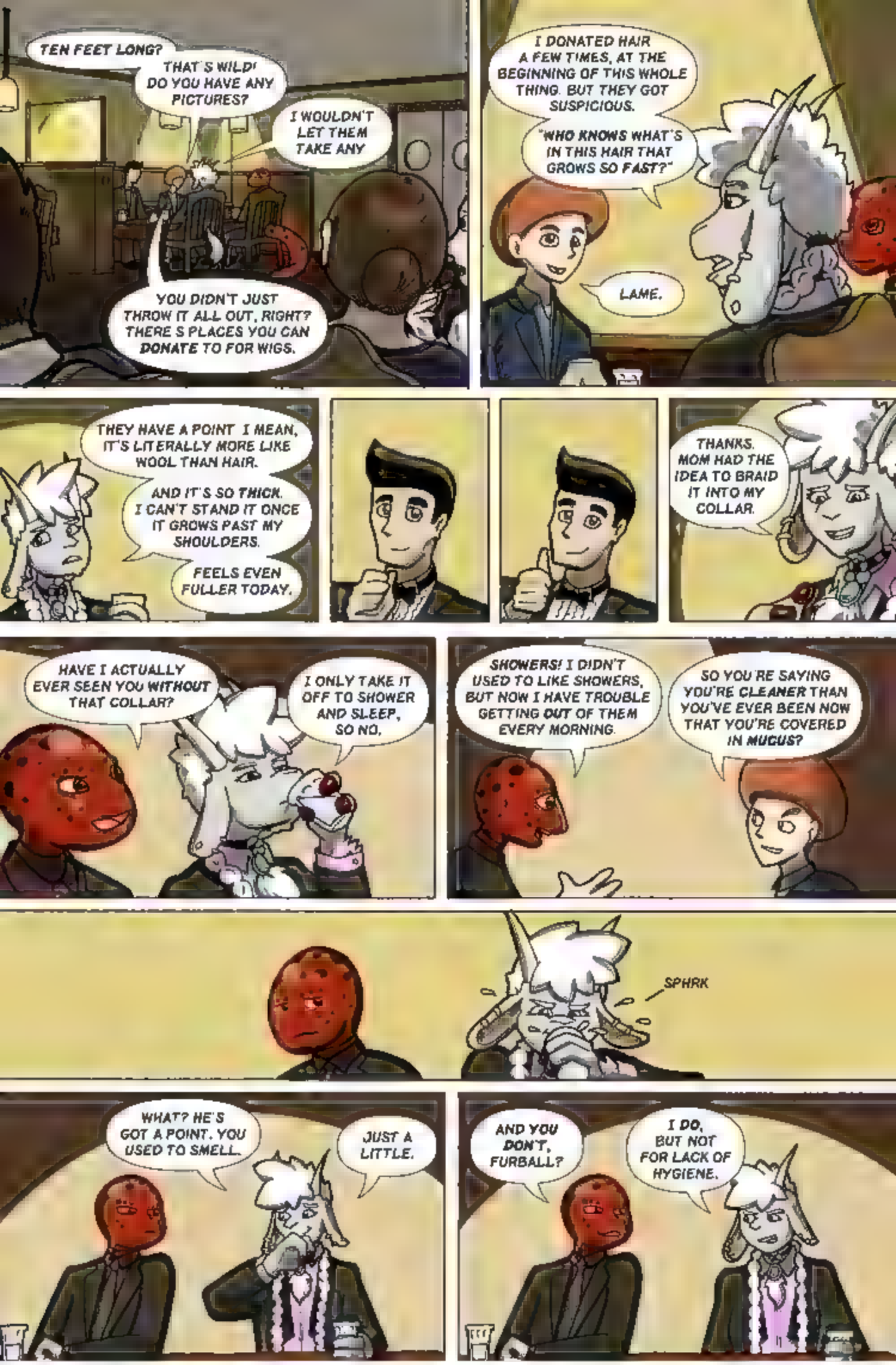
TEN FEET LONG?
THAT'S WILD! DO YOU HAVE ANY PICTURES?
I WOULDN'T LET THEM TAKE ANY
YOU DIDN'T JUST THROW IT ALL OUT, RIGHT? THERE'S PLACES YOU CAN DONATE TO FOR WIGS.
I DONATED HAIR A FEW TIMES, AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS WHOLE THING. BUT THEY GOT SUSPICIOUS.
"WHO KNOWS WHAT'S IN THIS HAIR THAT GROWS SO FAST?"
LAME.
THEY HAVE A POINT. I MEAN, IT'S LITERALLY MORE LIKE WOOL THAN HAIR.
AND IT'S SO THICK. I CAN'T STAND IT ONCE IT GROWS PAST MY SHOULDERS.
FEELS EVEN FULLER TODAY.
THANKS. MOM HAD THE IDEA TO BRAID IT INTO MY COLLAR.
HAVE I ACTUALLY EVER SEEN YOU WITHOUT THAT COLLAR?
I ONLY TAKE IT OFF TO SHOWER AND SLEEP, SO NO.
SHOWERS! I DIDN'T USED TO LIKE SHOWERS, BUT NOW I HAVE TROUBLE GETTING OUT OF THEM EVERY MORNING.
SO YOU'RE SAYING YOU'RE CLEANER THAN YOU'VE EVER BEEN NOW THAT YOU'RE COVERED IN MUCUS?
SPHRK
WHAT? HE'S GOT A POINT. YOU USED TO SMELL.
JUST A LITTLE.
AND YOU DON'T, FURBALL?
I DO, BUT NOT FOR LACK OF HYGIENE.

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IT'S COOL HOW YOU'VE STUCK TO YOUR PERSONAL STYLE. IT SHOWS YOU'RE STILL THE SAME PERSON EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NOT HUMAN ANYMORE.
I AM HUMAN.
LIKE, YEAH, MY DNA ISN'T FULLY HUMAN, AND SOMETIMES THE GOAT BRAIN KICKS IN, BUT--
UGH. THIS IS WHY I HATE USING LABELS.
I'M ME, WHATEVER THAT MEANS.
YOU'RE SO MUCH MORE, THOUGH. YOU ROCK WHAT YOU'VE GOT WITH A PASSION.
MOST PEOPLE WOULD TRY TO HIDE YOUR FEATURES.
AT THE VERY LEAST, IF WE NEVER FIND A CURE...
...YOU'LL SHOW THE WORLD THAT US ANIMAL-PEOPLE CAN STILL BE BEAUTIFUL.
HOW LONG DID YOU PRACTICE THAT LINE IN A MIRROR?
WHAT'S UP NEXT, MIKE? AS THE GUEST, IT'S YOUR PICK.
JUST KEEP IT UNDER TWO HOURS.
UH, FLINT? WHAT'S UP?
I HEARD SOMETHING OUTSIDE.
IT WAS PROBABLY A DEER.
NO, I THINK IT CAME RIGHT UP TO THE WINDOW.
THE LAST TIME SOMETHING CAME THAT CLOSE, IT WAS SCURRY

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IS THAT HOW YOU SEE ME? SEE US?
POSTER CHILDREN FOR GENE SPLICING?
IT'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.
DO I SOUND ASHAMED? I'M PISSED.
I HAD TO SPEND THE ENTIRE DAY ON LOOKING PRESENTABLE.
I'M NOT EMBARRASSED ABOUT HOW I LOOK, BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE PROUD OF IT, EITHER.
IF YOU ENJOY YOUR CHANGES, GO RIGHT AHEAD.
BUT IT'S LIKE YOU'RE RESIGNED TO WHEREVER YOUR TRANSFORMATION IS TAKING YOU.
EVERY TIME I SEE YOU, YOU'RE A LITTLE DIFFERENT, WITH SOME NEW SALAMANDER TRAIT.
YOU ACT LIKE IT'S NOTHING.
THIS IS NOTHING. IT'S HAIR.
YOUR ENTIRE BODY IS CHANGING.
HOW LONG WILL IT BE BEFORE YOU CAN'T GO OUTSIDE AT ALL? HOW LONG WILL IT BE BEFORE YOU CAN'T WALK UPRIGHT?
YOU'VE BEEN HELPING A LOT WITH THE CURE FOR FLINT AND ME. HAVE YOU BEEN SPENDING ENOUGH TIME ON YOURS?
KAY, I'VE GOT SOME BRUSCHETTA AND A CAESAR SALAD.
SALAD. RIGHT HERE. KEEP IT COMING.

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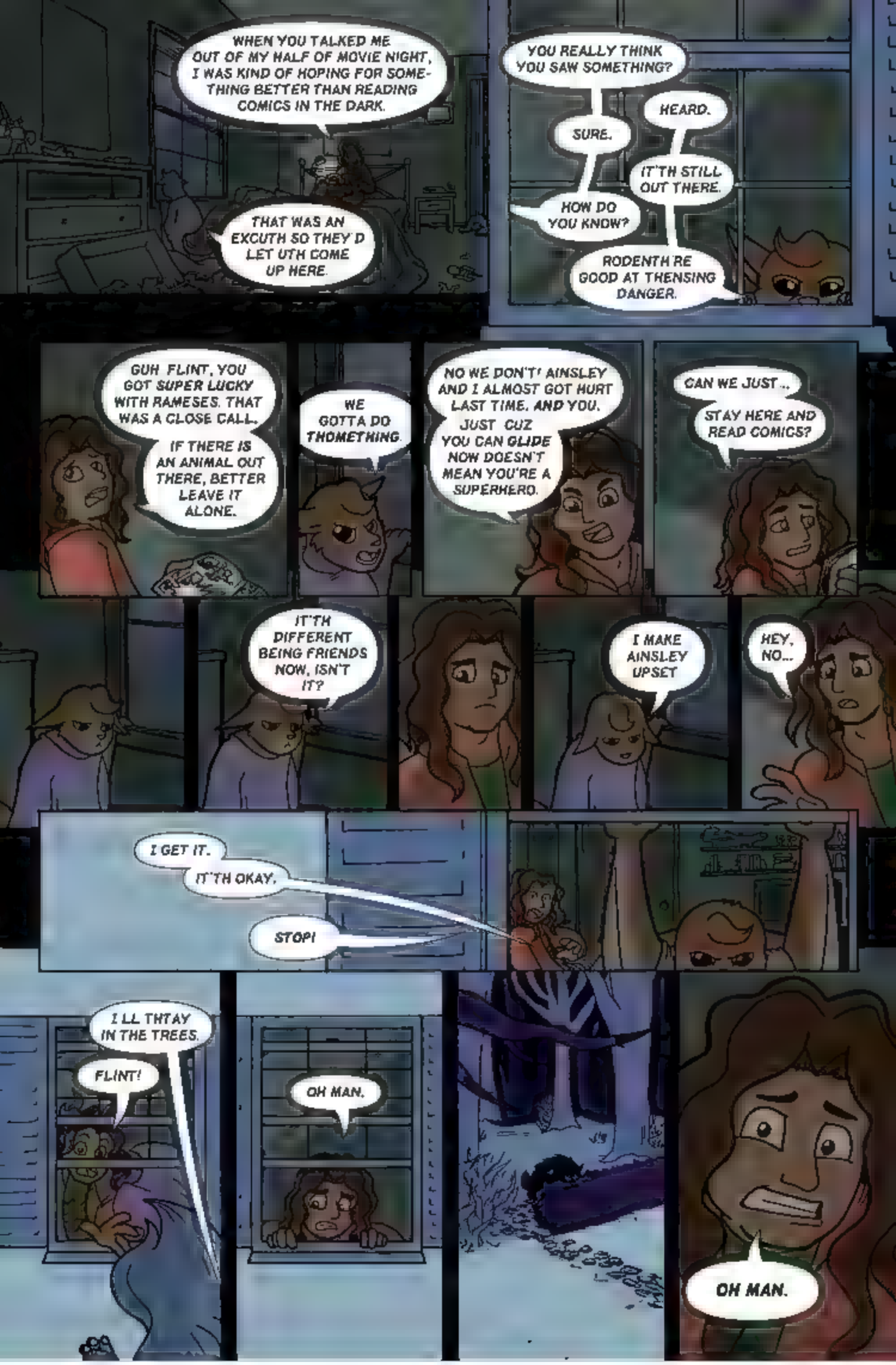
WHEN YOU TALKED ME OUT OF MY HALF OF MOVIE NIGHT, I WAS KIND OF HOPING FOR SOMETHING BETTER THAN READING COMICS IN THE DARK.
THAT WAS AN EXCUTH SO THEY'D LET UTH COME UP HERE.
YOU REALLY THINK YOU SAW SOMETHING?
SURE.
HEARD.
IT'TH STILL OUT THERE.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
RODENTH'RE GOOD AT THENSING DANGER.
GUH FLINT, YOU GOT SUPER LUCKY WITH RAMESES. THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL.
IF THERE IS AN ANIMAL OUT THERE, BETTER LEAVE IT ALONE.
WE GOTTA DO THOMETHING.
NO WE DON'T! AINSLEY AND I ALMOST GOT HURT LAST TIME. AND YOU. JUST CUZ YOU CAN GLIDE NOW DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE A SUPERHERO.
CAN WE JUST... STAY HERE AND READ COMICS?
IT'TH DIFFERENT BEING FRIENDS NOW, ISN'T IT?
I MAKE AINSLEY UPSET
HEY, NO...
I GET IT.
IT'TH OKAY.
STOP!
I'LL THTAY IN THE TREES.
FLINT!
OH MAN.
OH MAN.

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DANGER
RUN
EAT
PREDATOR
RUN!!
N-NO! IF FLINT RUN, WHO'LL PROTECT MY FAMILY AND MIKE?
NEED TO LURE AWAY!
I CAN DO THIS! SNEAK ATTACK! BITE AND CLAW THE BACK! WON'T EVEN SEE ME!

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WH...
WHY...?
YOU?
CHACK!
GHURRRRR
THE GOVERNMENT DIDN'T TAKE ANY OF THEM DEE AND I HAVE EM DIVIDED UP BETWEEN OUR HOUSES.
THIS IS MY BUNCH. DEE'S GOT CYNTHIA AND THE REST OUR PARENTS AREN'T THRILLED HAVING MORE PETS TO LOOK AFTER, BUT WITH SCHOOL CLOSED, WE'VE BEEN HANDLING MOST OF IT OURSELVES.
ARE THE CRITTERS DOING OKAY WITHOUT ACCESS TO THE LABS?
THEY JUST NEED TLC.
VITAL READINGS AND TISSUE SCANS ARE NO SUBSTITUTE FOR AFFECTION STOP OVER SOMETIME AND SEE 'EM.
MAYBE JUST THE ONES THAT DON'T INCAPACITATE ON CONTACT
...CASS?
IT'S GOTTEN PRETTY QUIET IN HERE.

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SEEMS REALLY EARLY FOR THINGS TO DIE DOWN.
THEY'VE BEEN SEATING PEOPLE IN THE PARTY ROOM THE WHOLE TIME WE'VE BEEN HERE.
IT'S JUST THE EARLY BIRDS WITH US.
ALL THE STUFF YOU'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT AND YOU DIDN'T MENTION THAT? I DON'T MEAN LIKE WE HAD TO KNOW, BUT THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU.
I WAS SPECIFICALLY AVOIDING IT. DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE A BIG FUSS.
I WON'T I EXPECTED WORSE, ACTUALLY
I DIDN'T MEAN YOU.
SORRY I CAN'T ANYMORE
FFANKH YOU COME OUT
GOOD
WH...AT DO YOU...?
RRRRY
LET HIM GO!

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ONLY
TAKE SOME
PAF
FUMP!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
Y-YEAH,
THATH THE THING NOAH MADE FOR ME...
SO YOU HAVE A TRANQUILIZER GUN.
AFTER HALLOWEEN, IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA.
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE MORE COMFORTABLE IF WE
US MORE ?
YOU DIDN'T DO THIS THE OTHER TIMES I'VE BEEN HERE WITH MY NEW ARMS, AND DEE AND I WERE STILL COMFORTABLE
ASHTON, I MEANT WHAT I SAID. YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ALWAYS HAVE A TABLE HERE.
BUT YOU PICK WHICH TABLE, RIGHT?
I WANTED THESE, UNCLE C. CASS AND NOAH DIDN'T WANT WHAT THEY GOT.
IT DOESN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHAT ANY OF US WANTED.
CAN WE JUST GET THE CHECK?

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WHO IS THAT?
IT'TH THE GUY WHO TURNED CASS' TEACHER INTO A SNAKE.
ARGO ARCHER?
THEY'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU! YOUR PARENTS.
THEY... THEY WANT YOU TO COME HOME.
PAAR-
NO HELP
YOU
PAF
SOON, KID.
GO INSIDE AND LOCK THE DOORS UNTIL THE AUTHORITIES GET HERE.
UH, HEY, MY MOM S GONNA BE HERE SOON, TOO...
WHEN SHE HEARS ABOUT THIS.. I DON'T THINK SHE LL LET ME COME OVER ANYMORE.
INTERNET. FOR NOW
UNTIL YOU'RE -
'TIL I'M WHAT?
THEN HOW'LL WE SEE EACH OTHER?
I MEANT...
I - I M SORRY. ARE YOU OKAY? LIKE, WITH ALL THIS STUFF HAPPENING TO YOU?
NOT ALL OF IT.
I'LL MESSAGE YOU EVERY DAY PROMISE.

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WHAT DID YOU THINK HE WAS TRYING TO SAY?
"I LOVE YOU!"
AWWW, HAH HA HA!
HE WAS EVEN RUNNING ALONGSIDE THE BUS LIKE IN A SAPPY MOVIE! BUT THAT WAS JUST HOW I WANTED TO SEE IT.
BY THE TIME I REALIZED I WAS ON THE WRONG BUS, WE'D ALREADY GONE HALF THE ROUTE.
DID YOU TELL THE DRIVER OR DID THEY FIGURE IT OUT?
I WANT TO SAY "A," BUT IT WAS "B." ANYWAY, SHE HAD TO FINISH DROPPING EVERYONE ELSE OFF BEFORE SHE COULD TAKE ME BACK.
WHEN WE PULLED INTO THE SCHOOL, MY PARENTS WERE THERE WAITING.
DEE HAD CALLED THEM.
"CALLED" CALLED? AS IN...?
HE SPOKE TO MY PARENTS, YEAH.
HE KNEW THEY'D BE WORRIED WHY I WASN'T HOME YET. IT TOOK SOME WORK, BUT THEY FIGURED HIM OUT AND DROVE RIGHT OVER.
HE MUST HAVE SAID MORE WORDS TO THEM ON THAT PHONE CALL THAN HE'D EVER SAID TO ME UP 'TIL THEN.
YOU DID THAT FOR ME.
THAT'S WHEN I KNEW...
...I HAD TO GET A LOT BETTER AT BODY LANGUAGE.
DID ASH GET BETTER AT IT?
WELL I SEE THAT'S THE LAST TIME I PRAISE YOU IN PUBLIC FOR A WHILE.
HA HA
UH, CASS? YOU'RE EATING YOUR PLATE.
MUH?
OH. BLECH!

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ANOTHER ADVANTAGE THIS PLACE HAS OVER THE ALLIUM.
THEIR PLATES AREN'T EDIBLE.
HEH.
OR AS TASTY
HEY, ABOUT THE WAY I TALKED ABOUT YOU GUYS BACK THERE. I M SORRY
IT WAS THE WRONG ARGUMENT TO MAKE I M SORRY ABOUT MY UNCLE, TOO.
HE AND EVERYONE THERE HAVE BEEN GREAT TO ME. IF I HAD ANY IDEA HE'D TREAT YOU DIFFERENT--
YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU GUYS INVITED US GENEROUSLY TO TAG ALONG ON YOUR DATE.
AND YOUR UNCLE SEEMS LIKE A REASONABLE GUY. HE LISTENED, AND MAYBE HE'LL ACTUALLY THINK DIFFERENT THE NEXT TIME SOMEONE WITH A TAIL OR FUR WALKS INTO HIS PLACE.
I'VE BEEN TREATED WORSE BY PEOPLE WHO WEREN'T EVEN WILLING TO CONSIDER THEY WERE WRONG.
I'LL BE CHECKING TO MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T TREAT ANYONE ELSE THE WAY HE TREATED YOU.
THANK YOU.
BZZZ
BZZZ
BZZZ
UMM, DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY, BUT COULD YOU TAKE ME HOME, PLEASE?

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PLEASE DON'T START GUILT TRIPPING YOURSELF AGAIN.
THAT'S NOT IT. I'M SICK-K OF PEOPLE CORRUPTING MY INVENTIONS.
I MADE THAT THING TO HELP FLINT. ARGO T TRIED TO... S SUCK HIS NANOBOTS OUT
WOULD HE HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN ABLE TO USE THEM TO FIX HIMSELF?
I DOUB-BT IT. IT WAS A DESSSPERATE MOVE. OUT IN THE WILD FOR SIX-X WEEKS... HIS DNA FIGHTING ITSELF...
WHO KNOWS W WHATSSS GOIN' THROUGH HIS MIND.
GO HOME. WARM UP
YEAH... CAN'T S-STAY OUT HERE.
G'NIGHT, CASS.
GOOD--
...NIGHT
IS HE ALL RIGHT?
I THINK SO.
THAT WAS A REALLY BRAVE THING HE DID.
HE'S GIVEN US A LOT OF REASONS TO SAY THAT LATELY
SO HE'S GROUNDED, RIGHT?
ABSOLUTELY.

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KNOCK
KNOCK
COME IN.
I KNOW THIS ISN'T QUITE WHAT YOU WANTED, BUT I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT ENJOY A LOOK BEFORE I CUT THIS ALL OFF.
CONSIDER IT A REWARD FOR WHAT YOU DID TONIGHT
OH...
THANKTH...
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHY DON'T YOU LIKE IT?
BECAUSE YOU DON'T
MOM AND DAD THAY I CAN'T PLAY OUTSIDE ANYMORE.
I ALREADY CAN'T GO TO SCHOOL, SO THAT MEANTH I'M STUCK IN THIS HOUTH FOREVER.
NAH, THEY'LL LET UP ON YOU EVENTUALLY. IT'LL ONLY FEEL LIKE FOREVER.
YOU WERE GOOD TO TRY TO PROTECT THEM. BUT GUYS LIKE ARGO AND KEN ARE TOO DANGEROUS TO TAKE ON BY YOURSELF.
YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?
FLINT?

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I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL. NEXTH TIME I'LL TRUST MY INSTHTINCTS INTHTEAD OF [redacted] THEM.
YOUR SQUIRREL INSTINCTS, OR YOUR HUMAN INSTINCTS?
THE RIGHT ONES.
YEAH.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME. I WOULD HAVE GONE TO YOUR HOUSE.
WOULDN'T-T BE RIGHT TO M- MAKE YOU DRIVE OVER TO PICK UP A GIFT
GIFT?
YEAH... CASS, I'M SORRY FOR TRYING TO PUSH YOU TO BE HAPPY WITH YOUR TRANSFORMATION
TO ME, YOU'RE JUST SO... SO DAMN GORGEOUS.
YEAH, I KNOW BEAR WITH ME...
I FORGET HOW YOU ACTUALLY FEEL. YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO EXIST AND BE YOURSELF AS MUCH AS YOUR BODY IS LETTING YOU.
MAYBE THIS COULD HELP
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT LABELS, SO IT'S NOT ENGRAVED YET
YOU CAN CUSTOMIZE IT HOWEVER YOU WANT
IT'S PERFECT EXACTLY THE WAY IT IS.

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CATOMIX
14

UTC

URGENT TRANSFORMATION CRISIS

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Bunface
507 555-1993
HEY, MORTY.
I M GOING TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NANOBOTS, AND IF ALL THE ANSWERS ARE "YES"...
..THEN I'LL TELL YOU HOW WE'RE GOING TO CHANGE ME BACK.
THE END

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RAMESES.
RAMESES!
HE'S RESPONDING TO HIS NAME.
HE'S RESPONDING TO THE SCENT.
THE LAST FEW FEEDINGS WENT THE SAME WAY
POOR RAMESES.
HE'S CALMER THAN HE USED TO BE.
SOME STUDIES SAY CAPTIVE CHEETAHS REGISTER MORE STRESS THAN OTHER CATS ON AVERAGE. IT MAKES THEM LESS ACTIVE.
THERE'S TIMES I THINK I SEE A GLINT OF INTELLIGENCE IN HIS EYES, WHEN HIS BROW SOFTENS...
...BUT IT COULD JUST BE DEPRESSION.
SO NO SIGN HE HAS ANY OF HIS HUMAN MEMORIES?
NOTHING CONCLUSIVE. EVERY DAY THEY TEST HIM TO GET A RESPONSE OR GET HIM TO RECOGNIZE FAMILIAR THINGS FROM HIS LIFE.
WE MIGHT NOT KNOW IF HE REMEMBERS ANYTHING UNTIL HIS BROTHER AND THE TEAM HERE FINISH A REVERSAL SERUM
KERIS' MIND CAME BACK. RAMESES' MIGHT, TOO.
KERIS' TRANSFORMATION THREW HER MIND FOR A LOOP, BUT SHE DIDN'T COME THIS CLOSE TO BEING PHYSICALLY FERAL.
HIS BRAIN CHANGED SHAPE, CASS.
AND SO WILL YOURS IF YOU DO WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING.
WHATEVER CHANGES, I'LL STILL BE ME.
WILL YOU?

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I DIDN'T CHANGE SPECIES. I JUST SHRANK INTO A YOUNGER BODY, BUT I STILL HAVE TO FIGHT CHILDISH IMPULSES.
A LOT OF THAT S HORMONES, THOUGH.
I OBVIOUSLY CAN'T STOP YOU.
YOU CAN HELP ME.
CAN'T YOU?
CASS, THERE'S TOO MUCH GOING ON.
I'M TRYING TO CONVINCE THE MILITARY TO RETURN THE EQUIPMENT THEY CONFISCATED FROM MY STUDENTS..
..WE'VE GOT TO TREAT RAMESES AND ARGO...
...EVERY DAY THE NUMBER OF LAWSUITS AGAINST ME DOUBLES...
...PLUS MY FAMILY'S GATHERING FOR PASSOVER, AND I NEED TO BE PRESENT TO PUT IN MY USUAL AMOUNT OF WORK HELPING THAT GO SMOOTHLY
IT S BEEN HARD PROVING TO THEM THAT I'M STILL A COMPETENT ADULT... AND TO MYSELF, FRANKLY
I GET IT. I M SORRY
WAIT A FEW WEEKS, I M SAYING. AFTER THE HOLIDAYS.
I KNOW THAT'S ASKING A LOT, BUT YOU'VE GOT THE TIME TO PUT TOGETHER THE BEST POSSIBLE PLAN.
PLEASE, CASS, PLEASE, DON'T RUSH THIS.
...AND IF ALL GOES WELL, I'LL BE BACK TO NORMAL IN LESS THAN THREE DAYS.
HOW, EXACTLY?
NOTHING WE'VE COME UP WITH HAS BEEN ABLE TO COUNTER THE NANOBOTS IN YOUR SYSTEM.
WHICH MEANS THE FIRST STEP IN THE CURE IS NOT TRYING TO.

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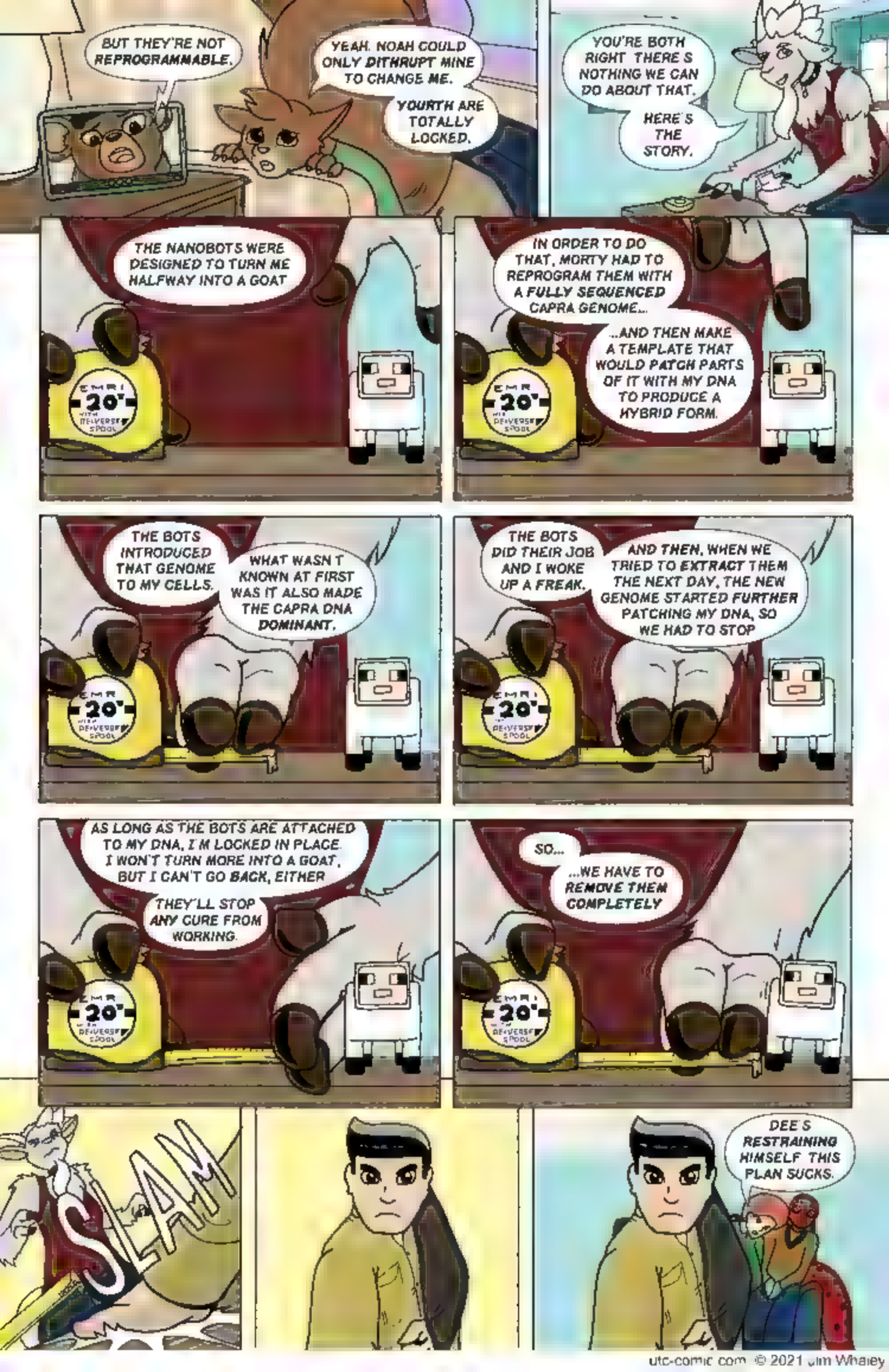
BUT THEY'RE NOT REPROGRAMMABLE.
YEAH. NOAH COULD ONLY DITHRUPT MINE TO CHANGE ME.
YOURTH ARE TOTALLY LOCKED.
YOU'RE BOTH RIGHT THERE S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT THAT.
HERE'S THE STORY.
THE NANOBOTS WERE DESIGNED TO TURN ME HALFWAY INTO A GOAT
IN ORDER TO DO THAT, MORTY HAD TO REPROGRAM THEM WITH A FULLY SEQUENCED CAPRA GENOME...
...AND THEN MAKE A TEMPLATE THAT WOULD PATCH PARTS OF IT WITH MY DNA TO PRODUCE A HYBRID FORM.
THE BOTS INTRODUCED THAT GENOME TO MY CELLS.
WHAT WASN'T KNOWN AT FIRST WAS IT ALSO MADE THE CAPRA DNA DOMINANT.
THE BOTS DID THEIR JOB AND I WOKE UP A FREAK.
AND THEN, WHEN WE TRIED TO EXTRACT THEM THE NEXT DAY, THE NEW GENOME STARTED FURTHER PATCHING MY DNA, SO WE HAD TO STOP
AS LONG AS THE BOTS ARE ATTACHED TO MY DNA, I'M LOCKED IN PLACE. I WON'T TURN MORE INTO A GOAT, BUT I CAN'T GO BACK, EITHER
THEY'LL STOP ANY CURE FROM WORKING.
SO...
...WE HAVE TO REMOVE THEM COMPLETELY
SLAM
DEE'S RESTRAINING HIMSELF THIS PLAN SUCKS.

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PLEASE HEAR ME OUT OF COURSE THIS IS DANGEROUS.
NONE OF US HAVE TURNED FULLY INTO AN ANIMAL, NOT EVEN RAMESES.
I SPENT A LONG TIME CONVINCING MYSELF TO GO FOR THIS. THERE'S NO MEASURABLE EVIDENCE THAT CAN TELL US WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO MY MEMORIES, OR THE ESSENCE OF WHAT I AM.
BUT THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO GET MY OLD BODY BACK.
EVEN IF YOUR MIND STAYED INTACT SOMEHOW, DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU HAD A VIOLENT REACTION WHEN YOU TRIED TO EXTRACT THE BOTS THE LAST TIME?
THAT HAPPENED BECAUSE WE RUSHED IT
THAT TRACKS... WHEN I CHANGED, I FELT LIKE I WAS ON FIRE.
CHUCK SAID HIS HURT, TOO.
AS LONG AS WE EXTRACT THE NANOBOTS JUST A LITTLE BIT FASTER THAN THEIR RATE OF MULTIPLICATION, I SHOULD FEEL FINE.
THIRTEEN IS WORKING ON A DEVICE AS WE SPEAK. OUR SIMULATIONS PREDICT FULL REMOVAL WILL TAKE ROUGHLY TEN HOURS.
THEN WE JUST INJECT ME WITH NEW ONES HOLDING MY OLD DNA, AND...
SNAP
ARE YOU OKAY WITH CASS DOING THIS?
WE'RE WORRIED. OBVIOUSLY SHE'S TALKED WITH US ABOUT IT.
LEGALLY WE CAN'T STOP HER. CASS IS AN ADULT AND SHE'S SET ON DOING THIS.
SO, WE'RE GOING TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO HELP MAKE SURE THIS WORKS.

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THE SIMULATIONS YIELDED A NEAR-UNANIMOUS SUCCESS RATE.
THIS WILL WORK.
OH, OKAY. THE GUY WHO LOVES TURNING PEOPLE INTO ANIMALS THINKS WE SHOULD GO FOR IT.
THIS IS MY IDEA. HE'S HELPING.
AND I'M GRATEFUL YOU ALL CARE THIS MUCH ABOUT WHAT COULD HAPPEN, BUT--
WHY THE RUSH? DID YOU RUN THIS BY DOCTOR ATTIC YET? SHE'S THE BEST ONE TO
LETTING THAT MONSTER PLAY WITH YOUR DNA AGAIN REEKS OF DESPER
STOP.
I'M DONE WITH BEING... THIS.
I'M ASKING FOR YOUR HELP BECAUSE I TRUST ALL OF YOU. YOU'RE SMART, AND YOU'RE MY FRIENDS.
YOU'RE EXACTLY WHO I NEED IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG.
THIS IS SCARY. I'M SCARED.
THIS IS THE ONLY VIABLE CURE WE'VE FOUND IN TWO MONTHS. WE'VE RUN THE TESTS.
WAITING ANY LONGER WON'T MAKE THIS LESS RISKY.
AND I'M DONE WAITING.
TRUST ME.
HELP ME.
PLEASE.

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IF YOU THINK IT'LL WORK, IT DEFINITELY WILL.
AWW, I WISH I COULD BE THERE! I M GREAT AT HUGS NOW!
TWO DAYS LATER
I HOPE THIS IS COMFORTABLE ENOUGH FOR YOU.
IT'S GOT TO BE FIFTEEN YEARS OLD AT THIS POINT.
I LL ONLY NEED IT FOR A DAY AT MOST
AND IT'LL BE GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR WHEN I START HAVING TO SLEEP ON DORM BEDS.
ALL FILLED UP
PUT THESE IN THE FRIDGE NOW SO THEY'LL BE COLD BY THE TIME YOU'RE...
...YOU KNOW.
YYYYEAH.

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NOW I JUST NEED TO GET LUNCH READY BEFORE EVERYONE GETS HERE.
I'LL HELP WITH THAT
DON'T THINK I FORGOT ABOUT YOU GUYS.
DO YOU KNOW THAT I CHANGED YOUR FUR COLOR?
DO YOU FEEL DIFFERENT? HAVE I HURT YOU?
SHOULD I CHANGE YOU BACK?
AND AS A COURTESY, IF YOU MUST SIT ON UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE, PLEASE TRY TO PICK THE SAME SPOT EACH TIME
I ANTICIPATED YOUR CONCERN, MASTER. I PACKED A LINT ROLLER IN MY OVERNIGHT BAG.
YOU'RE THE PARAGON OF PREPAREDNESS, THIRTEEN.
CASS HAS HELPED ME UNDERSTAND PEOPLE CUSTOMS AND DECORUM... ALTHOUGH OPPORTUNITIES TO APPLY HER TEACHINGS ARE RARE.
THIS WILL BE MY FIRST TIME IN ANOTHER FAMILY'S DOMAIN.
I WONDER HOW DIFFERENT IT WILL SMELL. WILL I BE ABLE TO ACQUIRE SUSTENANCE WHEN NEEDED?
DO THEY HAVE A CAT?
DO THEY HAVE A DOG?
WILL IT SEE ME AS AN INTRUDER?
WILL THE CALLOWAYS ACCEPT ME FOR SO LONG IN THEIR TERRITORY?
NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT PETS, NOR REJECTION.
WE ARE INVITED GUESTS.
AND IN POLITE SOCIETY, GUESTS ARE DE FACTO MASTERS OF THE HOUSE.

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H-H-HEY
HEY, EVERYTHING OKAY?
JUHHST AC-CCLIMATING. DEMETRUSH AND ASH JUST PULLED IN, T-TOO.
BZZZZZ
OKAY, PERFECT. CAN YOU GUYS RUN NOAH THROUGH THIS?
WITH JUST THE PRESS OF A BUTTON, THIS EXTRACTOR WILL BEGIN REMOVING THE NANOBOTS FROM CASS' CELLS.
AS THEY ENTER THE DEVICE, THEY'LL BE ATOMIZED TO PREVENT FURTHER REPLICATION.
AS LONG AS THERE IS NO INTERRUPTION, THE REMAINING NANOBOTS' REPLICATION RATE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP UP.
ONCE THE BOTS HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED, THE EXTRACTOR WILL DEACTIVATE AND DETACH ITSELF
THAT WILL BE THE SIGNAL FOR US TO ADMINISTER THIS SOLUTION CONTAINING NEW NANOBOTS WITH CASS' ORIGINAL DNA.
WHY'S IT IN A BABY BOT
OHHH.
YEAH, I'M NOT GOING TO HAVE HANDS. A DRINK WILL BE EASIER THAN AN INJECTION.
ALSO, MORE HUMILIATING, BUT I'LL BE WALKING ON ALL FOURS BY THAT POINT WHAT'S DIGNITY?
AH HRMM, WELL...
CASS ASKED ME TO TIME THE NEW BOTS TO CHANGE HER BACK AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT PAIN
SHKK
OW.
SORRY.
CASS, UH... ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY SURE YOU'RE--
READY..?
click

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CAN NOAH AND I HAVE A MINUTE?
TONIGHT IS GOING TO BE HARD ON ALL OF YOU, NOT JUST ME.
I DON'T WANT THIS TO DISTURB EVERYONE MORE THAN IT ALREADY HAS.
BEFORE I CAN'T WALK ANYMORE, I'M GOING TO COME DOWN HERE AND STAY HERE UNTIL MY BODY S RESTORED
YOU SHOULDN'T BE ALONE.
I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE. I WON'T JUDGE YOU EITHER WAY, SO TELL ME HONESTLY...
...WILL YOU STAY HERE WITH ME?
JUST YOU. NOBODY ELSE.
UNTIL YOU'RE HUMA -
UNTIL YOU'VE GOT YOUR HUMAN FORM BACK?
YES.
I'M REALLY GLAD YOU ASKED.
HOW WILL ALL THITH HELP CASS IF NONE OF IT'TH ATTACHED TO HER?
THESE ARE STATUS MONITORS, FLAN.
FLINT
THE EXTRACTOR WILL SEND THESE LIVE VITAL SIGNS SO WE CAN KNOW HOW SHE'S DOING.
THERE'S EVEN AN ABORT SWITCH IN CASE-- HEY _
WHY'S IT ALREADY RECEIVING...?
MORTY, YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO WAIT UNTIL WE WERE DONE SETTING UP!
TAKE IT UP WITH THE "BOSS."
HEY, GUYS...
YEAH...
I, UH... MIGHT'VE...
WHO'S READY FOR LUNCH?
ME I'M SO READY THANK YOU

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ARE YOUR PETS GONNA BE OKAY WITH BOTH OF YOU GONE OVERNIGHT?

SURE. OUR FOLKS KNOW WHAT THEY NEED.

THEY ARE MAGNIFICENT CREATIONS. IT WOULD BE PLEASING TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THEM IN A SOCIAL CONTEXT ONE DAY

I DON'T RECOMMEND IT

THEY INSTINCTIVELY DEFEND AGAINST ANY THING THEY PERCEIVE HOSTILE, AND THAT INCLUDES ANYTHING CLOSE TO MORTY.

MORE FRESH LEMONADE, ANYONE?

EXCELLENT! GIVE IT HERE.

MURRR...?

TH-THAT IS HOW MASTER MORTY ASKS AT HOME...

WAS THAT NOT CORRECT?

I AM V VERRRY SORRY, MR. CALLOWAY

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

HERE YOU GO.

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UH, HEY! CASS!
WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU WANT TO DO ONCE YOU'RE QUOTE-UNQUOTE "NORMAL"? ANY SPECIAL CELEBRATORY PLANS?
OH YEAH, TOTALLY.
WE'RE GONNA START ON A NANOBOT CURE FOR FLINT.
MAYBE WE CAN EVEN USE THEM TO CURE NOAH.
UH, MAYBE... BUT THEY CAN'T POSSIBLY SOLVE EVERYTHING.
OR MAYBE IT IS THAT EASY? LIKE YOUR R-
WHY?!
WHY DO I NEED A CURE? I'M WHAT I'M THUPPOTHED TO BE!
YOU CAN'T STAY LIKE THAT YOU NEED TO BE ABLE TO GO TO SCHOOL AND GROW UP PROPERLY WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO-
NO!
FLINT?
FLINT!
WHA A A
TSH
SLAM
FLINT, OPEN UP!
PLEASE! HEAR ME OUT!

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IT'S OKAY IF YOU WANT TO BE A FLYING SQUIRREL SOMETIMES.
WE CAN FIND A WAY TO TURN YOU BACK INTO ONE TEMPORARILY.
I DON'T WANT IT TO BE TEMPORARY.
I KNOW. BUT YOU CAN'T LIVE LIKE THIS. HOW IS A THREE-FOOT SQUIRREL GONNA GO TO SCHOOL?
HOW WILL YOU LEARN TO DRIVE A CAR?
THIS CURE WILL HELP ALL OF US INCLUDING YOU.
YOU AND YOUR FRIENDTH COULD USE YOUR BIG SCIENCE BRAINS AND MAKE STUFF THAT LL HELP ME DO THAT.
IT WON'T HELP ME AT ALL! DON'T YOU GET IT?
WHEN THIS ITH DONE, YOU'LL EITHER BE A HUMAN OR A GOAT WITH NO MEMORIES.
IF YOUR CURE DOETHN'T WORK, I LOSE YOU.
IF IT DOES WORK, I LOSE ME

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I...
I'M SORRY IT'S LIKE THIS. WE'LL BOTH BE FINE I SWEAR.
SYSTEM CHECKS ARE COMPLETE, MR. ACKERMAN, EVERYTHING LOOKS GOOD.
THANKS.
UM...
I'M SORRY ABOUT THE WAY I'VE TREATED YOU. YOU DIDN'T DESERVE ANY OF THAT.
IF YOU WANT TO MEET OUR ANIMALS, YOU'RE, UH, WELCOME TO COME OVER.
REALLY? THANK YOU, SIR!
...YOU CAN JUST CALL ME ASH.
YOUR CANDIDNESS IS APPRECIATED, SIR! I WILL TAKE THAT UNDER ADVISEMENT.
WHILE YOUR HEART IS EXPERIENCING A GROWTH SPURT, MIGHT THERE BE ROOM FOR AN APOLOGY FOR THE WAY YOU'VE TREATED ME?
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE DOING SOMETHING?
I AM.
CASS GAVE ME INSTRUCTIONS AND I'VE FOLLOWED THEM TO THE LETTER.
NOW I AM TO SIT HERE, WATCHING YOU ALL DO THE IMPORTANT WORK AS IF THIS WERE A TEAM EFFORT AND NOT, IN FACT, BASED ENTIRELY ON THE OEUVRE OF ONE PARTICULARLY CLEVER INDIVIDUAL.
CASS SEEMS TO THINK MY FURTHER INVOLVEMENT COULD SCREW THINGS UP, AND FRANKLY, SHE MIGHT BE CORRECT
LET ME TRY TALKING TO HIM.

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TAP
TAP
NOAH! GET IN! WHATH GOING ON? [redacted] ATTACKING?!
NONO. SFINE. I JUSS WANT-T ED TO TALK.
YOU DID THAT BECUTH YOU KNEW I WOULDN'T OPEN THE DOOR.
YUH.
SIGH YOU'RE ALL TRYING TO CONTROL ME.
MOM AND DAD WON'T LET ME LEAVE THE HOUSE, EVERYONE WANTS TO CHANGE ME BACK, AND NOBODY IS LETTING ME DO WHAT I WANNA DO.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
I WANT TO BE ME!
I WANNA GLIDE THROUGH THE TREETH AND PLAY IN THE SNOW AND...
...AND GO TO SCHOOL AND HANG OUT WITH MY FRIENDTH. I JUTHT WANNA DO EVERY-THING LIKE THIS.
WHY ITH THAT BAD?
IT'S OKAY TO WANT THAT.
UGH.
THEN WHATH THE PROBLEM?
FWUMP
THE "PROBLEM" IS... OKAY, LET ME TRY GIVING YOU MY TAKE.
I LOVE BEING A SALAMANDER. I LOVE CLIMBING. I LOVE THE SPOTS. IT'S COOL. BUT EVEN IF I'M ABLE TO STOP THE SLOW MUTATION AND STAY LIKE THIS, I'LL ONLY BE ABLE TO GO OUTSIDE FOR HALF THE YEAR.
I HAVE TO WEAR THIS BODYSUIT AND GLOVES TO KEEP MY MUCUS OFF EVERYTHING I TOUCH. THERE'S SO MANY COMPROMISES.
YOUR PARENTS WILL HAVE TO WASH THIS BLANKET, BY THE WAY
YOU HAVE TO MAKE COMPROMISES, TOO. SO DOES EVERYBODY. FOR SOME, THAT'S A MUCH BIGGER PART OF LIFE THAN OTHERS.
YOU AND ME, WE HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF CHOOSING WHAT HURDLES ARE PUT IN FRONT OF US.
I'VE DECIDED I DON'T WANT TO DEAL WITH THIS ANYMORE.
YOU HAVE TO ASK YOURSELF IF YOU FEEL THAT WAY, TOO.
IF YOU TRULY WANT TO BE A SQUIRREL MORE THAN ANYTHING...
...ASK YOURSELF IF YOU CAN ACCEPT THE CHALLENGES THAT COME WITH IT

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YOUR VITALS ARE ENCOURAGING. HOW DO YOU FEEL, MISS CALLOWAY?
I'M STARTING TO GET A LITTLE LIGHT HEADED. THAT'S PRETTY MUCH THE SAME AS AFTER THE FUNDRAISER.
HOW LONG S IT BEEN SO FAR?
HEY, IS YOUR HAIR GROWING? LIKE, FASTER THAN NORMAL, WHICH IS SAYING SOMETHING?
YEAH... IT IS. MIGHT BE A SIDE EFFECT OF MY CELL REPLICATION GOING INTO OVERDRIVE TO SHIFT ME INTO THE NEW FORM.
I DEFINITELY WON'T MISS ALL THE DAILY
--HAIRCUTS.
PLUCK
IT APPEARS THE FOLLICLES ARE CONVERTING TO FUR.
AT THE RATE THINGS ARE GOING, I M PROBABLY GONNA GO DOWNSTAIRS SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT STAYING UP HERE FOR THE REST OF THIS?
WE'LL BE WHEREVER YOU NEED US TO BE.
BESIDES, THIS ROOM HAS A TELEVISION.
THEY'RE ALL BEING REALLY GOOD ABOUT THIS.
I FEEL SELFISH FOR KEEPING THEM AT A DISTANCE.
YOU DON'T WANT TO FEEL LIKE A SPECIMEN UNDER A MICROSCOPE. WE GET IT.

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I THINK I M CAUGHT UP TO YOU AS FAR AS PROGRESSION.
ISN'T IT WEIRD HAVING A DIFFERENT CENTER OF BALANCE? IF I DIDN'T HAVE THIS TAIL I THINK I'D NEED A CANE.
IT DOES TAKE GETTING USED TO.
WHICH I HAVE NO INTENTION OF DOING, THANK YOU VA A ARY MA-A-A-A--
COME ON, THAT'S LIKE THE FIFTEENTH TIME YOU'VE EVER DONE THAT
UH, CASS?
I AM REALLY NOT ON THE BA-A AL TODAY.
WHAT ...? DID IT FIGURE OUT THE LATCH?
I PROBA-A-A-
AHEM
I DON'T THINK I CLOSED IT RIGHT.
HOW MANY WERE IN THIS ONE?
JUST DOTTIE. SHE'S GOTTEN OUT BEFORE. I KNOW WHERE SHE HID LA-A-AST TIME.
HOPEFULLY SHE LL BE OKAY FOR A COUPLE DAYS.
MEH, LET'S GET HER NOW. I COULD USE A DISTRA A A-CTION.
AND I'VE ALREADY GOT AN IDEA A-A...

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IS THIS THE BEST THING WE SHOULD BE DOING RIGHT NOW?
IT BEATS WA ATCHING MY THUMBS SHRINK IN SLOW MOTION.
HRRR. COULD YOU PLE E EASE OPEN THIS?
OKAY, OKAY. NEVER HAVE I EVER...
...TURNED ANYONE INTO A GIANT POODLE.
YOUR CUNNING PLAN TO GIVE ME DIABETES IS INSPIRATIONAL, ASHTON.
IS THAT THE GOAL OF THIS GAME? IT SEEMS QUITE CRUEL.
ALTHOUGH I DO NOT MIND HAVING AN EXCUSE TO ENJOY MORE OF THIS ROOT BEER.
DID FLINT TAKE HIS DINNER?
YEAH, BUT HE LOCKED THE DOOR AGAIN AFTER I GAVE IT TO HIM.
I M STARTING TO SEE YOUR POINT. HE'S NEVER STUCK TO A PROTEST FOR THIS LONG ABOUT ANYTHING.
IT'S JUST HARD NOT TO WORRY THAT BY LETTING HIM STAY THIS WAY, WE'RE ENABLING SOME FALSE INSTINCT AND HARMING HIS DEVELOPMENT
I KNOW BUT WHAT ARE WE DOING TO HIM BY FORCING THIS ISSUE RIGHT NOW?
WE CAN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT OPTIONS WE HAVE UNTIL CASS COMES OUT THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS.
WHATEVER SHE'S GOING THROUGH DOWN THERE, SHE'LL SURELY HAVE PLENTY TO SAY ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE.
I AM SO GOING TO MISS THIS PART OF BEING A SALAMANDER.
SHUSHH!
THE MORE NOISE WE MAKE, THE LONGER WE'LL HA AVE TO WA-A AIT

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OKAY...
AFTER YOU, THEN?
WHAT?
YO-O-UR A-A-AYES.
EYES?
YO-O-UR A AYES CHA-A-ANGED.
LOO-OO-KING A-A-A AT ME E E E.
I... DON'T KNOW? MAYBE. I M WORRIED. ARE YOU FEELING ANY...
...DIFFERENT?
WE-E-E BO-O-OTH A-A-A ARE.
FLINT, THE BATHROOM S FREE. COME ON AND FRESHEN UP BEFORE YOU GO TO SLEEP
THE OTHERS SAY YOUR SISTER IS DOING GOOD. SHE S ALMOST READY FOR THE NEW NANOBOTS.
YOUR FATHER AND I TALKED, AND WE DECIDED THAT WE WON'T FORCE YOU TO CHANGE BACK.
WE ONLY WANT YOU TO BE SAFE. IT'S HARD TO KNOW IF YOU REALLY UNDERSTAND...
...IF WE ARE GETTING THAT ACROSS TO YOU THE RIGHT WAY
WE DON'T KNOW IF WE CAN KEEP YOU PROTECTED, BUT...
YOUR SAFETY WON'T MEAN ANYTHING IF IT MAKES YOU THIS UNHAPPY.
WE WANT TO UNDERSTAND BETTER WHAT YOU'RE FEELING. CAN WE COME IN AND TALK?
LEON...
MY FEET ARE FREEZING.

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SCHH
SCHHHH
SKRH

SORRY

TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT YEAR IN

UTC

IT'S IN HERE SOMEWHERE...
...IT MUST BE!

THIS IS YOUR FAULT!
IT'S ALL BECUTH OF YOU!
YOUR FAULT!

PHASE THREE CONTINUES
EARLY 2022

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UTC

URGENT TRANSFORMATION CRISIS

MORTY, IS THIS YOUR IDEA OF HELPING?!

YOU'VE KILLED NOAH!!

MORTIMER MONTOVARIUS -- SAVIOR...? OR MONSTER!

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SMASH

CASS! STOP!

CASS!

UHNN ?!

WHAT--? NO GET CASS...

C-CAAHHS!

PAFF

C-C-CA

NOT YOU TOO! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

SOMEBODY HELP ME OUT

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YYUUUAH

URGH.

RISE AND SHINE, BUTTERCUP

OH, THIS IS A LOVELY SURPRISE. THANK YOU.

IS THIS FRESH?

YUP

YOUR MOTHER'S DEFINITELY GOING TO SMELL THIS WHEN SHE WAKES UP

LET ME WORRY ABOUT THAT. I'M NOT LETTING MY BUSY GIRL LAUNCH INTO HER DAY WITH AN EMPTY STOMACH.

"GIRL?"

AH, SORRY...

IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'M NOT EXACTLY ABLE TO ARGUE THE POINT

ARE... YOU OKAY ON THE COUCH?

I'M FINE, JUST A FEW MORE DAYS BEFORE THE GUEST ROOM IS FREE AGAIN.

WE CAN SWITCH. IT'S NOT LIKE I NEED ALL THIS--

EETLE DOOOO

DEETLE-

HELLO?

LEON? WHAT S--?

COMING THROUGH!

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THIS WAY.
HOW IS HE?
SAME AS WHEN I CALLED. WE CAN'T WAKE HIM UP.
THIS IS THE BEST WE HAVE FOR PADDING. I HOPE IT'S COMFORTABLE ENOUGH FOR HIM.
COMFORT IS A MINOR ISSUE.
..YOU HAVE A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT.
IT'S FROM XOSA'S OLD CLINIC.
PITY IT WASN'T A VETERINARY CLINIC.
QUIET
HIS HEARTBEAT'S STEADY, BUT IT'S VERY SLOW.
ARE YOU OKAY?
HE'S SUGGESTING IT MIGHT HAVE TO DO WITH THE COLD.
WE'VE GOT A SPACE HEATER RIGHT OV--
NO. NO HEAT
WHAT?
BUT DEMETRIUS JUST SAID--
AMPHIBIANS GO INTO A SORT OF STASIS IN COLD WEATHER. AND IN THIS CASE, THAT'S A GOOD THING.
THE MORE NOAH CHANGES, THE WORSE HE GETS. SLOWING HIS METABOLISM DOWN COULD SLOW THE PROCESS, TOO.
IT BUYS US TIME TO FIGURE THIS ALL OUT
ALL RIGHT. I'LL GO SHUT OFF THE FURNACE.
...AND MAKE A LOT OF COFFEE.

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...AND MAKE A LOT OF COFFEE.

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SO... I'VE GOT ENOUGH EQUIPMENT HERE TO MONITOR HIS CONDITION, BUT THAT'S ALL.

YOU BROUGHT HIM HERE INSTEAD OF AN OUTFITTED FACILITY...

...WHY?

ALL HIS WORK IS HERE. WE PICK UP WHERE HE LEFT OFF FIGURING OUT A CURE

ERM, HIS HEAD ISN'T STAYING PUT

IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A REFLEX, THOUGH.

MORE LIKE HIS NECK IS RESHAPING.

IT'S NOT GONNA STAY ON THAT PAD, AND A PILLOW COULD STRAIN HIS NECK LIKE THIS.

HOW DO WE PROTECT HIS HEAD WHILE HE S TRANSFORMING?

TO KEEP PRESSURE OFF THE CRANIUM, THE BEST BET IS TO HANG IT OFF THE SIDE.

HOW ABOUT YOU GO BACK TO SULKING IN A CORNER AND LET THOSE OF US WHO REALLY CARE ABOUT OTHERS WORK ON--

WHUMP

THANKS, DEE.

OKAY, I'M GENUINELY NOT TRYING TO EXPRESS SNARK: HIS BODYSUIT IS STEADILY BECOMING LESS SUITABLE

I-I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT

YOU GET TO WORK. IF HIS VITALS BECOME LESS STABLE, I'LL HAVE TO TAKE HIM TO THE INSTITUTE.

HANG IN THERE, MAN.

HANG IN THERE GUYS!

I'M COMING!

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LIKE

THANKS FOR SAVING US, NOAH!

BUT KERIS IS STILL TRAPPED!

GOT THAT COVERED!

SHUNK!

POOF!

AAUGH!

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ALL RIGHT. WE NEED TO TAKE A CRASH COURSE IN EVERYTHING NOAH.

IT'S FORTUNATE I "STUDIED" IN ADVANCE THANKS TO THE NOTES HE LENT ME IN OUR FIRST YEAR.

"WE" AS IN DEMETRIUS AND ME.

YOU'RE NOT STEALING ANY MORE OF HIS IDEAS.

OF THE THREE OF US, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO ALREADY UNDERSTANDS HIS NOTATIONAL STYLE AND THE CONCEPTS HIS WORK IS BASED ON.

IF YOU STOP LETTING YOUR EMOTIONS STEER YOUR BRAIN, YOU'LL REALIZE THAT YOU NEED ME

GACK--!

WE DON'T.

NOAH WOULDN'T EVEN BE LIKE THIS IF YOU HADN'T--!

HEY!

HEY!

THANK YOU, MR. VERTTRONI

RIGHT, THEN. I'LL START WITH HIS MOST RECENT PHYSICAL NOTES. THIRTEEN, SEARCH THE COMPUTER FILES FOR...

OH.

RIGHT.

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GOOD LUCK! TELL KATSUKO WE'LL JOIN AS SOON AS WE CAN.

50

IRRELEVANT

OLD DATA.

FLINT IRRELEVANT

CASS. OLD DATA.

OLD DATA.

BAH! IT'S IN HERE SOMEWHERE... ...IT MUST BE!

WHICH IS UTTER NONSENSE!

HE KEPT SCORES OF DETAILED PLANS AND RESULTS BEFORE THEN, AND HIS NOTES ON CASS AND FLINT'S CONDITIONS ARE AS UP TO DATE AS LAST WEEK!

NONE OF ANY HARD OR SOFT COPIES OF NOAH'S NOTES ABOUT DEVELOPING HIS CURE THAT I'VE FOUND ARE LESS THAN A MONTH OLD.

AND, DESPITE AN INCREASINGLY DETESTABLE PART OF ME FEELING SMUG THAT HIS RESEARCH INTO THEIR CURES WAS AS FRUITLESS AS MINE, I'M NOW PREOCCUPIED WITH A NEW QUESTION...

...WHY THE DISCREPANCY?

WHY WOULD HE METICULOUSLY DOCUMENT HIS WORK ON THEIR CURES AND NOT HIS OWN?

UNLESS HE GOT PARANOID I MIGHT OBTAIN HIS NOTES AGAIN SOMEHOW...

HRMM NO INVISIBLE INK.

EITHER HE'S HIDDEN THOSE SPECIFIC RECORDS EXTREMELY WELL...

...OR...

...OR HE JUST... ...GAVE UP.

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WE ALL SHOULD BE THANKING MORTIMER.

HE FIGURED IT OUT

WHERE IS HE?

IN THE OTHER ROOM. HE DIDN'T THINK YOU'D APPRECIATE IF HE WAS THE FIRST PERSON YOU SAW AFTER WAKING UP

GET HIM IN HERE.

HEY, MAN...

"...YOU DID GOOD."

TO BE CONTINUED...

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CATOMIX
16

UTC

URGENT TRANSFORMATION CRISIS

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WOOOOSH!

OH! I'M THORRY, BIRDY!

I'VE GOTTA BE MORE CAREFUL. THE WHOLE IDEA IS TO COEXIST WITH EVERYTHING OUT HERE.

MY HEAD KEEPS DRIFTING TO HOW AWESOME IT IS TO HAVE SO MUCH FREEDOM. FINALLY

THERE'S SO MUCH SPACE... ESPECIALLY WITH THE SIZE I AM NOW

SO BEAUTIFUL. SO MUCH TO EXPLORE.

SO...

...LONELY

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HER AROMA IS MUCH MORE APPARENT HERE.

COULD SHE BE..?

GONE. UNFORTUNATE.

AT LEAST SHE FOUND SHELTER LAST NIGHT.

ALSO, IT WILL BE EASIER FROM HERE, NOW THAT I CAN FOLLOW HER TRA--

FFSH

SCRFF

I HATE THIS SO MUCH.

I HATE THAT THIS BODY IS TELLING ME THIS GRASS TASTES GOOD.

I BARELY TOLERATED SALADS BEFORE ALL THIS.

FUMP

PSHAF FUF

NOT PREDATOR. SNOW.

SNOW SAFE.

GOTTA STOP REACTING TO MY DUMB GOAT BRAIN.

SCRFF SCMPF

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IF YOU WON'T GO HOME... CAN WE STILL STICK TOGETHER?

OF COUR-

COMPETITION
INVADER
STARVING
DEFEND MY TERRITORY
SAFER ALONE
COMPETITION

OF COURSE WE CAN STICK TOGETHER.

THAT'S WHAT FRIENDTH DO.

YOU FEEL THEM TOO, DON'T YOU?

WHAT?

THE [illegible], I'VE BEEN FIGHTING THEM ALL DAY.

THEY DON'T WANT US TOGETHER, BUT I DO.

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

CHUFFF

BA A A A?!

BA-A-AAH!

RUSTLE

CHUFF

CATHH? WHAT'RE YOU--

ARE YOU OKAY?!

FLINT! ARE YOU OKAY?!

THAT'S YOU RIGHT? STOMP YOUR HOOF IF YOU UNDER-STAND ME!

SQUEAL SQUEAK CHIT SKREEF!

MA-A-A! BE-E-EH BAA MA-A-A-A!

WAIT, STOP SPEAKING SQU'RREL! I CAN'T

CRNCH

SHFF

SHFF

CRNC

SHFF

SHFF

CRNCH

SHFF

CRNCH

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RUN

NO, DON'T RUN. IF WE RUN, WE'RE DEAD.

FLINT'S NOT RUNNING.

MAYBE I CAN DISTRACT THEM WHILE CASS AND SCURRY RUN

WAIT, WHY AREN'T THEY ATTACKING?

THEN I'M NOT RUNNING, EITHER.

SIZING US UP? SURPRISED WE'RE STANDING OUR GROUND?

THEN HOW'S THIS FOR A SURPRISE, YOU MUTTS?

SQUEAL!

KEEP EYE CONTACT. ACT LIKE A PREDATOR, NOT PREY.

HOPE THEY FALL FOR IT AND LEAVE.

CASS, I REALLY HOPE THAT'TH YOU IN THERE.

...MAYBE THE THOUGHTS WERE RIGHT AFTER ALL.

DAMN. THEY'RE NOT LEAVING.

MUST BE STARVED.

IF WE CAN'T RUN, AND WE CAN'T STAY...

BAAA-AA.

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TAP TAP

OH NO.

WHAT DO I DO? EVEN WITH MY ASSISTANCE, THEY ARE OUT-NUMBERED.

INTIMIDATION WOULD BE USELESS, AND NEGOTIATION IS A FOREIGN CONCEPT TO WILD CREATURES.

WE ARE IN THEIR DOMAIN. AND THEIR DOMAIN...

IS THE WILD

BA-A-A-A!

SNARL!

RUSTLE

CLINK

I'LL WARD THEM AWAY!

CATCH THIS!

IT HAS A GPS LOCATOR!

KRRK

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CASS? CAN YOU UNDERTHAND ME?

NOD NOD

I'M THO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY!

THANK YOU FOR SAVING UTH!

THIRTEEN S OKAY, TOO! SHE MADE IT UP INTO THE TREE! HER BRANCH LOOKS LIKE IT'TH GONNA HOLD.

AS LONG AS THE WOLVES ARE HERE, THE CALLOWAYS WILL BE SAFE.

MASTER, YOU WOULD BE PROUD OF ME.

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PURPLE EAGLE?

FAMILIAR. WHY?

SCURRY, CAN YOU ?

YUP!

BAA A A!

E E EHH BA-A-AAA!

WHAT?

THE BIRD? DID WE NEED THAT FUR FOR SOMETHING?

SHE'S **WEAKENING**. SHE MIGHT LOSE HER HOLD OF THE BRANCH SOON.

SCURRY SAYTH THIRTEEN'S OKAY, BUT SHE'TH LOOKIN' WEAK.

BUTT

OKAY I GUESS WE'RE GOING AFTER THAT EAGLE

WHY ARE WE ALWAYS TRYING TO ATTRACT MORE PREDATORS?!

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LEON CONFIRMED IT WAS FLINT'S FUR! HE'S IN THIS DIRECTION!

IT'S TOO THICK. WE CAN'T GET THERE THIS WAY.

MAYBE WE WON'T HAVE TO...

FLINT! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

WOW, KATSUKO! YOU'RE EVEN BIGGER THAN I THOUGHT

UH. YEAH.

SORRY! I OWE A LOTTA APOLOGIETH TO A LOT OF PEOPLE, BUT LATER!

WE'VE GOTTA MOVE! THIRTEEN'TH IN MAJOR TROUBLE UP OVER THAT CLIFF!

WE CAN'T EVEN GET THROUGH THESE BUSHES. HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET UP THERE?

HEY. WHILE WE WERE GLIDING, I SAW A QUICK WAY BACK AROUND.

EVERYBODY, FOLLOW US.

MAS.

MUNSTRRR

C'MON, GIRL. HOLD ON JUST A LITTLE--

SCREW IT.

THOSE WOLVES CAN CHOKE ON MY WOOL.

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THIRTEEN, ARE YOU--?
MASTER!
IT S GOOD TO SEE YOU SAFE. KATSUKO FILLED ME IN ON EVERYTHING. I'M SO PROUD OF YOU.
THANK YOU. THAT MEANS VERY MUCH TO ME, MASTER.
AT THE SAME TIME, THOUGH, I FEEL YOUR PRIDE IS...
...UMM...
I SPENT HOURS IN THAT TREE FIGURING OUT HOW TO EXPLAIN THIS...
I WANT YOU TO BE PROUD OF ME, BUT I DO NOT FEEL I NEED THAT...
...FOR ME TO BE PROUD OF MYSELF
THIS WILL MOST LIKELY NOT BE THE LAST TIME I MAKE AN IMPORTANT CHOICE WITHOUT CONSULTING YOU. I HOPE THAT DOES NOT CAUSE DISAPPOINTMENT
YOU... YOU ARE YOUR OWN PERSON, THIRTEEN.
MORESO THAN I THINK I'VE EVER ANTICIPATED.
I-I'M NOT DISAPPOINTED, I'M... D--DELIGHTED.
MASTER, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHY IS YOUR MOUTH DOING THAT?
I M FINE. JUST PLEASE SHOO AWAY ANYONE WHO COMES BY UNTIL THIS FEELING PASSES.

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--ABSOLUTELY NO UNSUPERVISED ACTIVITIES AWAY FROM HOME UNTIL AFTER NEW YEAR'S.

WE'LL BE IN TOUCH WITH NOAH'S PARENTS TO MAKE SURE THAT GOES FOR ALL OF YOU.

CASS AND NOAH, YOU CAN DRIVE TO VISIT EACH OTHER, AS LONG AS A PARENT IS HOME. THAT'S OUR ONE CONCESSION.

JUST NO OVERNIGHTS.

THAT'S COMPLETELY FAIR. THANK YOU, MR. AND MRS. CALLOWAY

YES. THANK YOU.

YOU WANTED SCISSORS?

YES. THANK YOU

"OLD" FINGERS, DO YOUR THING.

SNIP SNIP SNIP SNIP SNIP SNIP

I'M SORRY FOR RUNNING AWAY AND CAUSING ALL THITH.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP APOLOGIZING. WE WERE FORCING A CHOICE ON YOU THAT YOU ALREADY KNEW WAS THE WRONG ONE.

YOU CAN STAY THE WAY YOU ARE.

REALLY?!

WE'LL ALL HAVE TO MAKE SOME ADJUSTMENTS, OBVIOUSLY. BUT, GIVEN EVERYTHING UP TO THIS POINT, WE'RE PRETTY SURE WE CAN MAKE IT WORK.

CONGRAT ULATIONS, LITTLE BRO.

THANK YOU.

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WITH LAWSUITS IN LIMBO, QUESTIONS REMAIN OVER THE ACADEMIC FUTURES OF THE SCHOOL'S STUDENTS...

...A SMALL NUMBER OF WHOM ARE CAMPAIGNING FOR THE RESUMPTION OF CLASSES, IN SPITE--

RE-OPEN the ATTIC

ATTIC SCHOOL SENIORS RALLY IN SUPPORT

7 NEWS

click

I CAN'T TELL WHAT'S WEIRDER: SEEING US ON TV, OR SEEING US ON TV AS HUMANS.

IF WE TRIED TO RANK EVERY WEIRD THING ABOUT THIS, WE'D NEVER GET AROUND TO FINISHING OUR SENIOR PROJECTS.

YOU THINK THEY'LL ACTUALLY REOPEN IT?

DUNNO, BUT I'M GOING TO EARN A SCIENCE DEGREE ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

FOR SURE. LET'S HOPE THINGS STOP CHANGING FOR A WHILE SO WE CAN FOCUS ON PREPPING FOR COLLEGE.

I'M NOT SCARED OF CHANGE ANYMORE.

I'M READY FOR NEW THINGS.

NEW LIKE WHAT?

WELL...

THERE'S ONE LITTLE THING WE HAVEN'T DONE AS HUMANS BEFORE. WANT TO TRY IT?

AAAAND THAT'TH OUR CUE TO LEAVE.

G'NIGHT!

PHASE THREE COMPLETE

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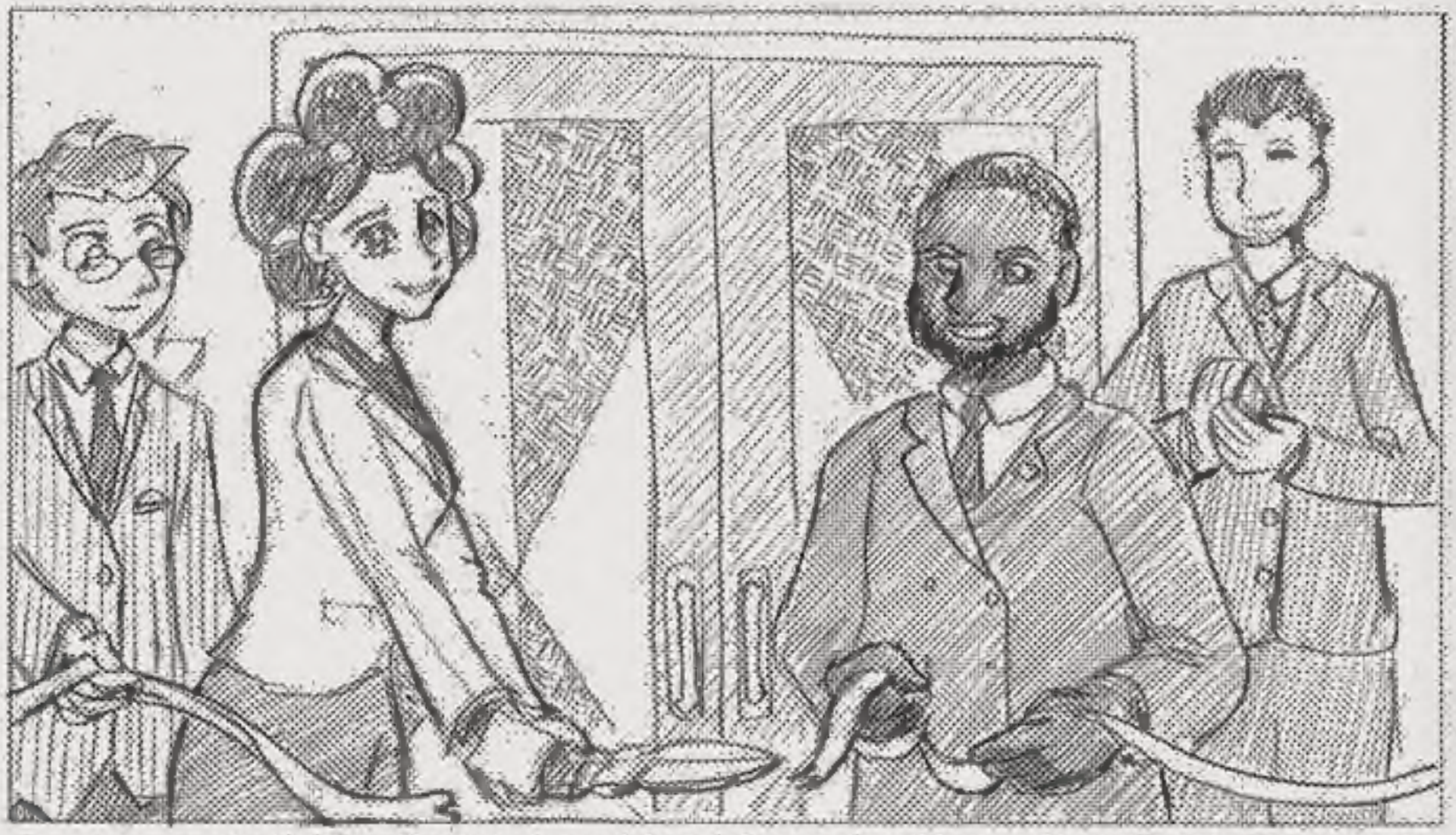
Local science academy adds new branch



Founder and principal Jennifer Attic (second from left) cuts the ribbon on Simon T. Attic Hall alongside Genesee Springs Mayor Jerome Walter (third from left), following a brief speech.

GENESEE SPRINGS - A crowd of cheering students, parents and faculty watched as principal Jennifer Attic cut the ribbon on the newest and largest addition to her eponymous Unassuming Yet Ridiculously Well-Funded School for Burgeoning Scientific Minds Monday morning.

The building is the third of at least five structures planned for the campus, which opened in 2015 with only two buildings in operation. The new facility allows the school to triple its student

The new building, Simon T. Attic Hall, is named after the older of Attic's two children and houses advanced facilities for biology and engineering classes, which many of the school's students have been eager to take on.

Students in their sophomore years will now have the opportunity to choose a focus in physics, chemistry—or genetics, a field that principal Attic is intimately familiar with. She holds a Doctorate in Genetics, Genomics and Development from Cornell

campus, Attic High will finally have the opportunity to fulfill its charter and provide the next generation with the tools and knowledge to make an impact on our future as a population," Attic said in a brief speech before cutting the ribbon.

"With circumstances on our planet changing rapidly, we need the benefits of science in our daily lives more than ever. I humbly dedicate this building to our future; all the promising young minds that are about to pass

SATURDAY

AH-HA!

SUCCUMB TO MY BUSTER SWORD, UNATTRACTIVE PLUMBER!

WEIRD... I DON'T USUALLY GET YOU WITH THAT MOVE.

MMM...

UMM... ARE YOU OKAY, MIKE?

...

NO. I GUESS NOT.

WHAT IS IT?

NOTHING'S, LIKE... EVER OKAY ANYMORE.

THINGS JUST KEEP GETTING WORSE.

MY PARENTS KEEP ME AWAY FROM THE NEWS CHANNELS, BUT THEY CAN'T STOP ME READING ABOUT EVERYTHING ONLINE.

IT'S BAD OUT THERE, DUDE.

BAD PEOPLE DOING BAD THINGS. NO ONE'S STOPPING THEM.

WHAT'S THE POINT OF HAVING FUN? DO WE EVEN DESERVE TO WHEN EVERYTHING ELSE IS LITERALLY BURNING?

YEAH WE DO.

YOU SEE THE GOOD GUYS HAVING FUN BETWEEN CHASE SCENES IN MOVIES ALL THE TIME.

THEY STAY GOOD, AND THEY WIN AT THE END.

THE BAD GUYS ONLY COME CLOSE TO WINNING WHEN THEY BREAK THE GOOD GUYS' SPIRIT.

THE GOOD GUYS DON'T LOSE WHEN THEY RELAX. THEY LOSE WHEN THEY GIVE UP.

THAT'S WHY THE EVILEST BAD GUYS MAKE WINNING SEEM HOPELESS.

THEY OUTNUMBER THE GOOD GUYS A HUNDRED TO ONE.

THEY TAKE OVER EVERY SYSTEM.

THEY BLOCK ALL THE EXITS.

THEY'RE THE DEATH EATERS.

THEY'RE THE FINAL ORDER.

THE YEERKS.

THEY'RE UNBEATABLE. THE MUSIC GETS ALL SAD AND THE GOOD GUYS THINK IT'S OVER.

AND THEN SOMEBODY STANDS UP.

AND THEN SOMEBODY ELSE.

AND SOMEBODY ELSE.

AND THEN THE GUY ON THE HORSE SAYS "THIS DAY WE FIGHT!"

WHEN WE GET OUR CHANCE TO SAVE THE WORLD, I'VE GOT YOUR BACK.

AND WHENEVER IT ALL FEELS HOPELESS, I'VE GOT YOU BACK, FRONT AND SIDEWAYS.

WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO TO FEEL BETTER? NAME ANYTHING.

I WANT TO DO SOMETHING WHERE WE AREN'T FIGHTING EACH OTHER.

ALL RIGHT. LET'S BREAK OUT THE LEGOS!

JW
1-4-20